

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Smooth drive
How to drive a
dream on the road
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A lion's share in
Africa and earning
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Overdrive
Ray Kennedy previews
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Party drive
Mrs Thatcher's address
to the Tories at
Blackpool
Channel 5



After Channel 4, Keith Waterhouse pleads for a TV channel for the silent minorities

500 end strike at BT

About 500 members of the Post Office Engineering Union involved in the dispute over the privatization of British Telecom returned to work. BT said about 200 staff crossed picket lines, and engineering crews were again brought into London by bus from all over the South-east.

Missile threat by Pact chief

If Nato installs the new cruise and Pershing missiles, the Warsaw Pact's nuclear forces will be strengthened and "counter measures" taken with regard to US territory, warns Marshal Viktor Kulikov, pact commander-in-chief.

Output falls

The Government will be disappointed with official figures which show Britain's industrial output fell in August, although the underlying trend remained slowly upwards.

KGB loses

The Soviet Foreign Ministry has won a struggle with the hardliners of the KGB to maintain the Kremlin's moderate response to the expulsion of suspected spies by the West.

£16,000 medal

The George Cross awarded to Lieutenant Robert Davies who defused a one-ton bomb near St Paul's Cathedral in 1940 has been sold for a record £16,000.

Miners warned

Mr Ian MacGregor, the National Coal Board chairman, urged miners to accept a 5.2 per cent pay offer saying there may not be as much on the table in future.

Running record

The average cost of running a car is now a record £1,007 a year with petrol accounting for more than half that figure, the AA says.

Prison plan

The Government is considering new legislation to help towards reducing the prison population by another 4,300.

Ryder hopes

Tony Jacklin has enjoined his European players into believing they can succeed in the twenty-fifth Ryder Cup, which starts in Palm Beach today.

Leader page, 13

Letters: On crime, from Mr Anthony Lester, QC, and others; Hong Kong, from Mr J Walden, equality, from the Bishop of Southwark. Leading articles: Conservative conference; French planes for Iraq.

Features, pages 8, 9, 12

Battle of the images among Democratic presidential hopefuls. Why this is the year of Champagne. Spectrum: the dirt on the face of the diamond. Friday Page: the human face of a Falklands hero. Medical Briefing. Special Report, pages 18, 19: Dudley, the Midlands' town fighting for recovery. Obituaries, page 14: Mr Neil Aldock, Mr Jiri Lederer.

Hard right's race jeers embarrass ministers

From Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent, Blackpool

Conservative leaders were embarrassed and distressed yesterday by an open display of hard-right views on the issue of immigration and race relations in a Blackpool party conference debate that was littered with boos, jeers, hissing and the eventual ejection of a man who had heckled an Asian speaker repeatedly.

The motion for debate, which, significantly, had been selected initially, by popular ballot of conference representatives, urged the Government to end all further permanent immigration from the Indian subcontinent, to bolster voluntary repatriation, and to repeal all race relations legislation. The conference decisively rejected the proposals, but senior ministers were disturbed last night that what they regard as the uglier expressions of right-wing Toryism should have been so dramatically displayed in front of the television cameras.

Moving the motion, Mr Henry Proctor, the ultra-right MP for Billericay, said: "I believe it to be in the best interests of black and white alike to say that enough is enough."

He received particularly strong applause when he said that the Commission for Racial Equality should be abolished. It was profoundly un-Conservative to believe that hearts and minds could be won over by legislation, and he added: "This is not racism, it is realism."

But the most graphic scenes of the debate were reserved for the final speaker from the floor, Mr Paul Nischal, aged 40, an estate agent who had contested Birmingham, Small Heath, in the general election in June. Mr Nischal, who came to Britain from New Delhi in 1964, said that the only people now coming into the United Kingdom were dependants and the disabled. "We live in a civilised society. Do you wish to deprive husbands of their loved ones?"

Prior rejects the price of tax cuts

From Philip Webster, Political Reporter, Blackpool

Mr James Prior last night added his voice to the growing display of Cabinet dissent over the direction of the Government's economic policy by expressing his opposition to cuts in taxation made at the expense of health, education and social services.

Taking a contradictory line to that proposed by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, in his speech to the Conservative conference on Wednesday, Mr Prior said that the great majority of wage earners appreciated that a proportion of the wealth they created must be used to help the less fortunate. He spoke out against party members who saw cutting public expenditure "not as a hopefully temporary and painful measure but as a moral crusade."

Throughout a speech to the Tory Reform Group in Blackpool, Mr Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, emphasized the link between action against unemployment and the party's prospects of winning the next election. That would, in certain circumstances, mean spending more money, he said.

Mr Prior said that what a volatile electorate had given the Conservatives, they could equally take away. "If we are perceived to have abandoned traditional Tory values,"

Horse tipped to win LSE's stakes

By Richard Evans

The 4,000 students at the London School of Economics face a tough choice next week: should they spend a £10,000 windfall on nursery facilities or on an up-and-coming National Hunt racehorse?

If recent history has anything to do with it, they will make up for an expensive mistake and plump for the well-bred novice. Hurdles recommended by Mr Martin Graham, aged 20, who is sports editor of the LSE student newspaper and something of a whizzkid racing tipster.



An attentive audience at the Conservative Party Conference in Blackpool yesterday for Mr Cecil Parkinson. From left: The Prime Minister, Mr Denis Thatcher, Mr John Selwyn Gummer, and Mrs Ann Parkinson (Photograph: Brian Harris).

Parkinson given a warm reception

From Julian Haviland, Political Editor, Blackpool

The Conservative Party, in conference at Blackpool, yesterday warmly received its former chairman, Mr Cecil Parkinson, while reserving judgment on his political future.

A hostile reception from the 5,000 representatives would have forced him to leave office, in spite of the Prime Minister's support, and the conference organizers took every caution to prevent it.

Mr Parkinson, whose role as Secretary of State for Trade and Industry was to wind up a debate on free enterprise and industry, was brought on stage with the Prime Minister so that he shared the applause with her.

His wife, Ann, who saw it as her duty to share his ordeal, earned some extra applause for herself, and a welcoming "Mrs Parkinson" from the audience.

There was some booing from the back of the hall when Mr Parkinson was introduced by the chairman, Mr Peter Lane, but the clapping almost drowned it.

Mr Parkinson's ministerial colleagues were present in unusual strength to support him, with more than half the Cabinet beside and behind him on the platform.

When he sat down they led the applause and stepped him on the back for a brave speech at which the content, on the day, was unimportant. By now there was no booing.

There were groups of representatives who showed disapproval by sitting still and silent. But half the hall rose to the Parkinsons, and most of the rest would have done the same had Mrs Thatcher and the platform party given a lead.

The belief that he can stay in office is not so widely shared in Blackpool as the hope. The artificiality of the conference setting makes the party's true mood unreadable. All that can safely be reported is that Mr Parkinson yesterday cleared another obstacle.

The Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Rt Rev John Bickersteth, yesterday criticized the Prime Minister for not accepting Mr Parkinson's resignation after he admitted his affair.

Anti-smoking sponsorship

The Health Education Council is to sponsor sports projects linked to a new anti-smoking campaign. It said yesterday it would sponsor Haringey Athletic Club, north London, and the National Association of Youth Clubs' five-a-side soccer competition which it has renamed the No-Smoking Cup.

Dr David Player, director general, said the council decided to take up the sponsorship because it was determined "to fight fire with fire". Tobacco companies had dominated sport sponsorship for too long, he said.

Turmoil in Israeli Cabinet Aridor resigns in shekel debacle

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The new Government of Mr Yitzhak Shamir was plunged into political turmoil last night, less than a week after taking office, with the dramatic resignation of Mr Yoram Aridor, the Finance Minister. It came as Israel was enduring the most acute economic crisis in its history.

Mr Aridor's decision to quit followed a storm of protest both inside and outside the Government caused by the publication of a secret and sweeping Treasury plan to link the entire economy to the US dollar, which would eventually have become legal tender.

The so-called dollarization scheme was leaked by the Tel Aviv newspaper, *Yedioth Aharnot*, and within hours led to angry calls for Mr Aridor to go. He submitted his resignation shortly before an emergency Cabinet session, the second since the Government was sworn in on Monday.

Under the scheme - worked out behind closed doors - the dollar would have become the basis for the Israeli economy, and gradually replaced the ailing shekel, which was introduced in 1980. One leading Cabinet member, Mr Yitzhak Moda'i, the Energy Minister, dismissed the proposal as "tantamount to changing the national anthem, or the national flag."

After his resignation, the main opposition Labour Party announced that it will press at the earliest opportunity for legislation in the Knesset to bring about an early general election. A simple majority in the 120-seat Parliament is needed to bring polling day forward from 1985.

Bitter hostility to the Aridor scheme came from every side of the political spectrum, and prompted the Labour Party to

Reed to sell Mirror Group

By Derek Pain, City Correspondent

Reed International is to sell Mirror Group Newspapers to investors in the first half of next year.

Sir Alex Jarratt, Reed chairman, said yesterday that the group, which also has packaging and do-it-yourself activities, intends to float shares of Mirror Group Newspapers on the Stock Exchange.

Reed will not retain any financial interest in the national newspaper business and will not have a representative on the board.

70 killed in outbreak of Lebanese fighting

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

The first definite signs that reconciliation talks might soon begin in Lebanon were overshadowed yesterday by the latest savage outbreak of street fighting in the northern city of Tripoli, which had by last night cost the lives of at least 70 people.

Throughout the day, Muslim militiamen stormed the offices of the Lebanese Communist Party in the city, shooting their way into buildings and murdering most of those who survived the initial assaults. A cloud of black smoke hung over Tripoli as the fighting continued into the evening.

Ironically, the battles in the north are a continuation of the conflict there during the 1975-76 civil war and so the reconciliation talks - which are intended to consolidate the ceasefire in the Chouf mountains above Beirut - can have little immediate effect on the bloodshed around Tripoli.

Detective 'told only to check' Waldorf

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

The detective who opened the fire on Mr Stephen Waldorf, thinking that he was a dangerous fugitive, was only expected to carry out a reconnaissance, to try to identify Mr Waldorf and report back, his police commander told a jury at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Detective Chief Supt George Ness told the court that Det Constable Peter Finch, aged 38, who is accused with another officer of attempting to murder Mr Waldorf, had broken police rules when he drew his gun, should have given a warning he was an armed officer and taken control of the car in which Mr Waldorf was caught in a traffic jam.

Mr Ness was describing a police operation in west London last January aimed at capturing David Martin who had escaped from custody some weeks earlier. On Wednesday, the jury was told that the police mistook Mr Waldorf for the fugitive and Constable Finch opened fire on the car.

Continued on back page, col 1

VICTORIA WINE

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VICTORIA WINE

Married vicar to be Catholic priest

A Church of England vicar is set to become Britain's first married Roman Catholic priest. The Rev Patrick Eastman, aged 46, has said he will leave the Anglican Church and become a Roman Catholic priest even though he is married with three grown-up children. He said yesterday he would leave St Nicholas Church in Hedworth, Tyne and Wear, at the end of this month after 13 years.

He will be accepted into the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland before becoming a priest in the Tulsa diocese in the United States.

It is believed that no other married clergyman has been ordained into the Roman Catholic ministry in Britain. Father Eastman's wife, Maureen, aged 46, is also joining the Roman Catholic Church and going to the United States.

Accounts lapse criticized

The government Accounts Commission has criticized Glasgow council for failing to impose proper accounting procedures on a development officer it employed on the west coast of the US.

Mr Edward Brodie, who resigned two months ago, blaming ill-health and admitting he had failed to attract any jobs to Glasgow, spent more than £100,000 of the council's money in 18 months.

Glasgow has been officially rapped by the government's financial "watchdogs" on the way it paid out more than £100,000 to a super salesman.

Three a day died of cold

Deaths from hypothermia during the winter of 1981/82 - the coldest in memory - were 25 per cent up on the winter before according to figures released today.

Statistics given to an Age Concern conference on hypothermia, by Mr Malcolm Wicks, a policy researcher, show that on average three of four people died each day from cold - 646 between October 1981 and March 1982. He calls for more action on insulation and heating costs.

Rent arrears rise to £139m

Rent arrears to local authorities and housing associations in England and Wales have risen from £13m in 1972-73 to £139m in 1981-82, according to a report by the Department of the Environment. The latest figure represents 4.4 per cent of collectable rent.

The worst offenders included single-parent families, large families and households whose head was unemployed. There was little evidence of extravagance as a cause of arrears.

Prior mission to win US funds

The battle to boost Northern Ireland's prospects of winning American investment will intensify later this month when Mr James Prior, the Secretary of State, travels to the United States to encourage business men to invest in the province.

He will meet leading politicians, journalists and businessmen at about the same time as a group from the newly formed Northern Ireland partnership is on a similar mission to North America.

Farming award

Sir Henry Plumb, former president of the National Farmers' Union, now leader of the British European group in the European Parliament, has won this year's Massey-Ferguson award for service to UK agriculture, announced yesterday.

MacGregor gives miners warning of smaller wage rises to come

By Tim Jones and Paul Routledge

Miners were urged by Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the National Coal Board, yesterday to accept the 5.2 per cent pay offer and warned that offers might be lower in future pay rounds.

Mr MacGregor, who was visiting the South Wales coalfield, said: "Of course I urge them to accept. Having made the offer I am not going to take it back."

"Circumstances might change my generosity. The union is properly concerned for the future of the industry. They know as well as I do that the market is diminishing."

Representatives of the area's 2,000 miners who meet today to discuss the offer seem certain to join other areas in rejecting it. Miners on the morning shift at the Deep Navigation Colliery, which Mr MacGregor was visiting, were adamant that the offer should not be accepted.

Mr MacGregor told South Wales miners that there was no hope of them receiving anything like the £400m investment they have called for. "I do not hold out much hope for that. We have not got that kind of money."

He refused to comment on the miners' fears that their coalfields, which lose more money than any other in Britain, will be reduced drastically from 32 pits as part of its campaign to make the industry profitable.

Mr MacGregor dismissed suggestions of a confrontation with the miners' president Mr Arthur Scargill. "I do not shoot from the hip. When you reach my age (he is 71) you look at the world in a philosophical fashion and you don't fly off the handle."

Mr MacGregor spent two and a half hours underground and travelled 2,000 metres on a train installed three months ago at a cost of £250,000.

The miners are to choose a new general secretary in January after yesterday's official

announcement that Mr Lawrence Daly is to retire early.

The election will come as National Union of Mineworkers' leaders search for common ground with NCB on an approach to the Government for a new deal for the industry.

But judged by yesterday's comments from the union, it is unlikely that the two sides can make common cause in the forthcoming talks with Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Energy. The unions want more subsidies, an end to pit closures and coal imports.

That cuts right across government plans to phase out subsidies and reduce reliance on coal as the main source of electricity.

Mr Daly, aged 58, is to retire early next year because of ill health after a car crash in 1975. His most likely successor is Mr Peter Heathfield, aged 54, left-wing leader of the Derbyshire miners.

Mr Scargill declined to discuss his preference for successor but it is confidently predicted that Mr Heathfield will win the left nomination and hence the job. His chief rival is likely to be Mr Ray Chubb, president of the Nottinghamshire miners who is a moderate.

The executive decided not to make recommendation to the union's special conference which meets in London next Friday to consider the coal board's "final" 5.2 per cent offer.

Initial coalfield responses to the rises of up to £5.80 a week have been mixed. Some areas, like Lancashire, are in favour, while the traditionally militant coalfields want a settlement more in line with the union's claim for "substantial" increases to restore wages to the post-1974 strike level. That requires a 23 per cent rise.

The coaling works at Fliburn, Durham, which employs 250 people will not close, the NCB announced yesterday.

1,500 power workers to lose jobs

By Jonathan Davis

More than 1,500 jobs will be lost in the electricity supply industry next year as a result of the Central Electricity Generating Board's plans to close or "mothball" 11 of its 100 power stations in England and Wales.

Electricity industry unions have been told of the CEB's plans to close eight mainly coal-fired stations and put another three oil-fired power stations on to standby from next autumn.

The worst affected stations include Brunswick Wharf in east London (closed with the loss of 272 jobs), Carmarthen Bay in South Wales (250 jobs lost), Keady in Humber (170 jobs lost), Drakelow in Leicestershire (150 jobs lost), Stourport, near Birmingham (133 jobs lost) and Connaught Quay station in north Wales (124 jobs lost).

Up to 433 redundancies caused by low orders, were announced yesterday by the Terex earth-moving equipment firm, Newhouse, Lanarkshire.

A company spokesman said: "The redundancy will not be as large should major contracts under negotiation, be successful."

More than 500 strikers, who defied an ultimatum to return to work were dismissed yesterday, but their employers, Chloride Power Storage, of Salford, Greater Manchester, offered to re-engage any who would accept new contracts.

Indications were strengthening in Belfast last night that the Government-owned shipbuilders Harland and Wolff, will take on the £4m contract for work on the Ministry of Defence's proposed floating harbour for the Falkland Islands which Sunderland Shipbuilders surrendered last Monday because of an unofficial strike.

Value test for defence equipment

By Rodney Cowton

The largest single customer of British industry, the Ministry of Defence, is seeking better value for money from the £7,000m a year which it spends on equipment.

Its methods of doing so are outlined in a defence operations government document published yesterday.

It says that as a result of keeping down personnel costs and reducing overheads the ministry has succeeded in raising the proportion of the defence budget spent on equipment from 35 per cent 10 years ago to more than 45 per cent now, which is among the highest proportions in Nato.

But there are limits to how much further that trend can be taken and it is of paramount importance that everything possible is done to halt the rise in defence equipment costs.

Among the means by which it is seeking to do that are involving industry in discussions at the earliest stages of a project, and by encouraging industry to suggest modifications to specifications where there is a good chance that that will improve sales prospects.

The document says: "Increased stress is being placed on adjusting operational requirements and technical specifications within acceptable limits to make prospective equipment more saleable abroad, thus assisting firms to be less dependent on the ministry for their markets and profits."

In addition the ministry is putting increasing emphasis on securing competitive tendering for contracts.

Value for Money in Defence Equipment Recruitment (Industrial Policy Division, Ministry of Defence, Main Building, Room 238B, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2HB).

Daily Mirror

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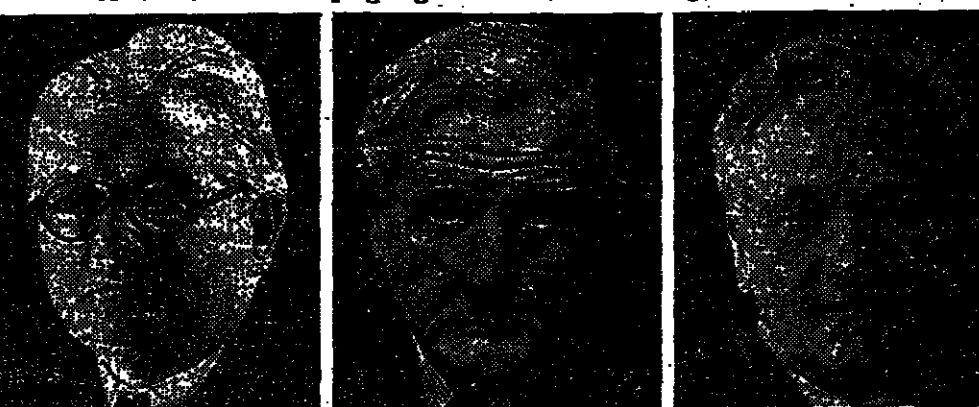
THE MIRROR

TOPS 5,000,000

FONTEYNE'S RUSSELL SHOT IN STREET

British officer vanishes in Cyprus

Mirror moments: Campaigning for Labour and reaching its circulation peak.



Mirror men (left to right): Mr Harry Bartholomew, who set the style; Mr Cecil King, the chairman who was ousted; Lord Cadell, refused to comment.

Question mark over future Daily Mirror ownership

By Rupert Morris and Barrie Clement

Yesterday's announcement of the impending sale of Mirror Group Newspapers puts a question over the future of one of the outstanding journalistic institutions of this century.

The *Daily Mirror* was conceived in 1903 by Alfred Harmsworth, Lord Northcliffe, as "a paper for gentlemen", written by women. The idea failed and the paper was redesigned within a few months as a popular newspaper with particular emphasis on pictures.

Costing one halfpenny, the *Daily Mirror* rapidly carved a niche for itself, its outstanding news pictures, gossamers and competitions that were then totally innovative.

The *Mirror* also established a reputation as a forthright, independent-minded newspaper.

Harry Bartholomew, a clerk's son who rose to become editorial director of the *Daily Mirror* in 1934, was most responsible for setting the paper's hard-hitting style in its heyday. He was anti-establishment on many issues, and was felt by his contemporaries to have a unique gift for being in touch with the feelings of ordinary people.

Under Northcliffe, it was fiercely opposed to Lloyd George; when Edward VIII wanted to marry Mrs Simpson, it supported him in defiance of popular opinion; in 1938 it spoke out against appeasement, although it supported the war effort wholeheartedly.

It clashed with Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister, on more than one occasion as a result of the writings of Cassandre, the outstanding columnist of the day, and the cartoons of Philip Zee. In 1945, the *Mirror* backed Labour under Attlee.

Until the reemergence of *The Sun* in 1969 under the ownership of Mr Rupert Murdoch, the *Mirror* had stood out as a popular newspaper, that shocked, entertained and sold millions of copies, without losing its integrity.

In recent years, while still able to provide apt headlines, or run a powerful campaign, it has lost some of its verve. It has been perceived, above all, as the Labour Party's last faithful supporter in Fleet Street.

Yesterday, Sir Alex Jarratt, the *Mirror* chairman, insisted that the "tradition and character" of *Mirror* Group Newspapers would be maintained, and he was looking for an independent chairman, understood to be a Labour businessman. He said that there had been no discussions with the Labour Party over the share sale.

He denied that he had received any approaches from Mr Robert Maxwell, the most widely tipped bidder, as anyone else.

Sir Alex said that Reed had decided to "concentrate its resources in other areas of publishing, both in the United Kingdom and overseas". The group has been extending its provincial newspaper interests.

He added that if there were no guarantees forthcoming, there would be a number of methods the Labour movement could undertake to oppose the sale. "But I am not prepared to divulge any potential action before consulting our members."

The TUC was yesterday that the political implications should be left to the Labour Party and the industrial implications were the concern of the unions involved.

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Government plan to cut prison population by 4,300

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Government is considering new legislation to help to reduce the prison population by 4,300. That is in addition to the 2,500 expected to be released when parole is more available earlier for shorter sentence prisoners, a move which Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, announced on Tuesday.

Mr Brittan plans to end prison overcrowding by 1990, but that depends partly on keeping out of prison fine defaulters, drunks and mental cases. Another target is petty offenders for whom alternatives to custody may be considered.

Prisoners in all those categories total about 4,300. The legislation would enable community service to be substituted for a fine. The Home Office also proposes to send a circular to magistrates detailing the existing range of alternatives to imprisonment for fine defaulters.

The introduction of more fixed penalties is also being considered, and almost all drunks imprisoned are there for fine defaulting, the Home Office is discussing with police the greater use of cautioning.

The Government plans to bring into force provisions of the Mental Health Act 1982 to enable courts to remand to psychiatric hospitals, make interim hospital orders and to require reports from regional health authorities on facilities.

There have been repeated complaints of hospitals not accepting offenders who have to be held in prison instead. Mr Bill Beaumont, chairman of the National Association of Probation Officers, said at its annual conference yesterday that Mr Brittan was under "relentless pressure from his own party to be tough and resolute in his approach."

Five prisoners, two of them convicted murderers serving life sentences, claimed in the High Court in London yesterday they had been wrongly refused legal representation when they appeared before prison visitors on disciplinary charges.

Mr Stephen Sedley, QC, for three of the men, told Lord Justice Kerr and Mr Justice Webster: "Legal guidance is desperately needed by Boards of Visitors in the interpretation of rules governing prisoners."

The five are asking the Queen's Bench Divisional Court for orders and injunctions requiring the Boards of Visitors at the Isle of Wight, Albany Prison and London's Wormwood Scrubs to quash penalties already imposed and preventing further hearings taking place without lawyers being present.

The applications are opposed by the Home Office which maintains that the Prison rules and regulations do not allow a prisoner legal representation.

Mr Sedley also said a similar case on prisoners' rights was now before the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. If it is found in favour of the prisoners, that decision would supersede any made by the High Court, the Court of Appeal or the House of Lords.

The hearing continues today. Letters, page 13

Jury urges javelin safety code

From Our Correspondent

A schoolgirl shouted a warning as the javelin she had thrown hurtled towards a friend, an inquest heard yesterday. But the call came too late to save Samantha Atherton, aged 13.

The javelin pierced her skull, causing severe brain damage and she died in hospital four days later.

Samantha had volunteered to mark up the length of javelin throws during her school's sports day.

In a statement, her friend, also aged 13, said: "The javelin travelled to the right of the boundary line and was heading for Sammy. I shouted 'Sammy'."

She seemed to see the javelin late, she pulled her head to one side but the javelin hit her.

"Sammy just staggered forward then fell over. I could see blood coming from her face. My throat went off line, it was a complete accident."

The inquest in Liverpool heard that Samantha, who was killed as she stood just outside the landing area, should not have been a marker.

In a statement read to the court, a spokesman for the Women's Amateur Athletics Association said only officials with at least six years experience should do the job.

The event, at Wirral Grammar School, in Bebington, was run voluntarily by an English and a History teacher who had no sports training.

The school's head of physical education, Miss Janette Young, had told the hearing that it was a mistake to let Samantha measure the distances. "Had I been told that a 13-year-old girl had been used in this way, I would not have allowed it."

The jury returned a verdict of death by misadventure, and recommended four safety guidelines:

• Javelins should be kept behind the throwing line.

• The Merseyside coroner, Mr Roy Barter, is circulating the transcript and recommendations to education chiefs in the country, the Amateur Athletics Association and the English Schools' Athletics Association.

Afterwards, Samantha's parents, Mr Ian Atherton and his wife Yvonne, from Eastham, said that they were considering taking legal action against Wirral Education authority.

There is widespread agreement that it is in the national interest to prevent further depopulation of the hill and maintain regions of Scotland, Wales, and northern and south-east England.

Large parts of them are classed by the EEC as less favoured areas and thus available for special aid from the Community. Proposals to increase the amount of assistance were recently agreed by the European Commission, and are expected to be ratified shortly by the European Parliament.

However, EEC funding is conditional upon a parallel commitment from national governments, and it appears that this is what Mr Jopling is now promising.

Earlier this year the Countryside Commission invited submissions from a wide range of bodies on how best to regenerate the upland economy.

Conference reports, page 4

Rudyard never kippled in such comfort.

Kipling would have waxed lyrical about Air-India. Especially our First Class. Wide, deeply comfortable seats in which he could stretch out or curl up. An equally wide choice of the very finest Eastern and Western cuisine.

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We could even have asked him to write this advertisement. But chances are he'd have been lost for words. Contact your travel agent or call Air-India on 01-491 7979.



Court attempt to overthrow election results

By Ronald Faux

A petition to have the Penrith and the Border by-election declared null and void because of illegal irregularities has been lodged with the High Court by Lieutenant-commander Eric Morgan, who fought the contest in July and was placed fifth with 150 votes.

It has been served on the Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr David Maclean who was the victorious Conservative candidate, the returning officer in Penrith, as well as a reporter on the *Daily Telegraph* and its management.

Lieutenant-commander Morgan, aged 73, a barrister and retired naval officer, has lodged £1,000 with his petition, which will lead to the first election court hearing for 22 years.

Mr Maclean dismissed the allegations as ludicrous.

Rapier claim challenged

By John Witherow

But they do attribute fault to "multiple weapons", which would include Rapier and small-arms fire.

The authors also confirm the Government's figures on the Harrier, with 30 Argentine planes destroyed in the air and three others probably downed.

They put the exaggerated claims down to several weapons engaging the same aircraft simultaneously, with each group claiming a "kill".

The Ministry of Defence said last night it stood by the figures in the White Paper on the lessons of the Falklands campaign. An official commented: "These figures were only announced after a very careful research by people on the spot."

The author had to rely on Argentineans, and we know that some Argentine relatives had come to this country to get the names of the war dead.

Air War South Atlantic (Sidgwick and Jackson, £9.95).

Detect he convince

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WISCHAEPE BANGER

Life igno

Detective describes how he shot Waldorf, convinced he was Martin

A detective described yesterday how he opened fire on a film editor during a police ambush in London in the mistaken belief that he was firing at David Martin, an escaped prisoner.

Det Constable John Deane described the events when Mr Stephen Waldorf was shot five times and seriously wounded as he sat in a yellow Mini in a traffic jam in Pembroke Road, Earls Court, west London, on January 14.

In a statement, read to the jury at the Central Criminal Court in the trial of Det Constable Peter Finch and Det Constable John Jardine who have denied attempting to murder Mr Waldorf, aged 26, Constable Deane said that he had been part of a surveillance team in the area.

He was stationary in his van in Pembroke Road when he saw Constable Finch walking along the pavement. "I noticed he had his gun in his right hand at arm's length, pointing towards the ground. Shortly after, I heard a shot ring out. I got out of our vehicle and heard more shots."

"I drew my gun and rushed to the Mini," he said. Det Constable Finch firing into the nearby door window, I was convinced the male passenger inside was Martin. I was also convinced he was firing at DC Finch."

"I got within two feet or so of the Mini, then fired as quickly as possible."

"When I finished, he was still upright and moving about. I was still convinced I was shooting at David Martin," the statement said.

Constable Jardine, aged 38, of Dawlish Drive, Pinner, Middlesex, and Constable Finch, aged 38, of Malvern Way, Croxley Green, Hertfordshire, have both denied the attempted murder and wounding of Mr Waldorf with intent to cause him grievous bodily



Miss Lamprell: Went to Mr Waldorf's aid

harm. Constable Finch has also denied a third charge he alone caused grievous bodily harm with intent.

After Mr Waldorf was shot, the prosecution alleges that he was "pistol-whipped" by Constable Finch with the butt of his empty pistol.

David Martin, for whom Mr Waldorf was mistaken, was jailed for 25 years at the Central Criminal Court on Tuesday after being convicted of charges which included shooting and wounding a policeman.

Mr George Carter, a company director from Worcester Park, Surrey, said that he was driving a van which was stationary behind the Mini containing Mr Waldorf, Mr Purdy and Miss Stephens, a friend of David Martin.

Mr Carter was one of several witnesses to the shooting. Mr Carter said his van radio was switched on, but if anyone had shouted "armed police" he would have heard.

In a statement read to the court on Wednesday by the Attorney General Sir Michael Havers, QC, for the prosecution, Constable Finch is alleged to have said that he did shoot "armed police". Sir

Michael said also that Constable Deane had not been prosecuted because he had made a genuine mistake.

Mr Carter said he saw the man who was being shot in the Mini trying to get out of the driver's side of the car with his arms in the air.

Mr David Still, a passenger in Mr Carter's van, said that saw the shooting and Mr Waldorf being hit several times with a pistol.

Miss Jane Lamprell, a state-registered nurse, who at the time lived in Pembroke Road, said she heard shots and saw a man lying in the road, obviously injured. She went to his assistance, and later accompanied him to hospital.

Det. Chief Supt George Ness, who led a team of police hunting David Martin, said in evidence that Martin was a very dangerous and desperate man who had a knowledge of firearms and was prepared to use them against anyone who got in his way.

Mr Ness said that his instructions to the surveillance team had been that "if faced with an arrest in the open my officers would be the ones to arrest him. I said an arrest in the open was to be avoided if possible. I stressed this."

Mr Ness said that for Constable Finch to have drawn his gun when he did was not in accordance with standing orders.

Mr Ness said: "What I would expect him to do is to put himself in the position of seeing whether it was Martin in the car, without putting himself in jeopardy and then come back to tell me."

Mr Ness said that it might not have been easy for Constable Finch, but he did not know whether it would have been impossible.

The trial was adjourned until today.



Straw disposal ideas

A competition to find new ways of breaking down straw, either mechanically or chemically, to allow its ready absorption into the soil is to be organized by the Long Sutton Agricultural Society and the Lands Improvement Group (Our Agricultural Correspondent writes).

The competition is in response to the growing certainty

that straw burning will, within the next two or three years, either be banned outright or subjected to more rigorous controls.

Despite the recent proliferation of ideas for using the millions of tonnes of surplus straw produced each year, as fuel, animal feed or industrial raw material, farmers remain unconvinced of the economics of collecting and bailing it.

Pen pals: The three winners of the Post Office's Letters to a Secret Friend competition were given their £250 prizes yesterday by Keith Chegwin, the television presenter (above). From the top: John Goodier, aged 14, from Wirral, Merseyside; Jason Davies, aged 12, from Aberystwyth; and Mark Trevithick, aged eight, from Camelford, Cornwall. (Photograph: John Manning).

Salvation Army backs petition on under-age pill

A nationwide petition supporting the campaign to prevent doctors being allowed to give contraceptives to girls under 16 without parental knowledge has received the backing of the Salvation Army.

Captain Shaw Clifton, the army's legal secretary, said yesterday that after his department had examined the petition, which urges the Home Secretary to recommend to the Commons that parents should have statutory right to consultation in such cases, it decided to throw its weight behind it.

The 1,000 citadels throughout the United Kingdom have been put at the disposal of Mrs Victoria Gillick, whose attempt to stop the Department of Health and Social Security advising doctors that parental consent was not needed in giving contraceptives to under-age children was rejected by the High Court in July.

The petition, which has between 250,000 and 500,000 signatures, is being organized on a parliamentary constituency basis so that when complete it will be presented to the Commons by more than 400 MPs.

A spokesman at the Commons said he had not heard of so many MP each presenting a petition and to spread the effect

three Fridays were being set aside, starting on November 28. When the Salvation Army heard of the petition and campaign it agreed to give it its backing.

"We decided we would lend our moral support because we thought what was being asked was reasonable and right in principle," Captain Clifton said. "We also decided to give our practical help in getting the petition distributed as widely as possible and so our 1,000 citadels have been made available to Mrs Gillick as centres from where they can be distributed and collected."

He said that it was the Salvation Army in 1885 which had been responsible for the age of consent being raised from 13 to 16.

Mrs Gillick, who lives with her husband, Gordon, five children and five sons in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, was last night delighted to learn of the army's support. "We could not have a better way of organizing the petition, or better people to work with."

She expected that the Home Secretary's response would be to say that he could do nothing as her appeal against the High Court ruling was likely to be heard in the spring and the matter was therefore sub judice.

Electronics for children

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

A revolutionary series of radio programmes designed to increase school children's knowledge of electronics is in the final stages of completion by the BBC, which will begin broadcasting them in the spring.

Children up to the age of nine years will be encouraged in the "Junior Electronics" course to build electronic circuits using a specially designed circuit board and kit which needs no soldering. The five 20-minute weekly radio broadcasts are meant to be recorded and

replayed in the classroom. The kits are to be made available by the BBC for about £5.

Secondary schools have had a board designed for them too, so that complicated electronic circuits can be built and understood by most pupils between 14 and 16 years old. The course called "Microtechnology" will help those taking O levels in electronics about 2,500 took the exam this year in only its second setting - but the course has been designed to be within the scope of less academically inclined pupils.

Car running costs top £1,000 a year

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

The average cost of running a car has now reached an all-time high of £1,007 a year, of which more than half is spent on petrol.

Reporting this yesterday in its latest survey of motoring expenditure, the Automobile Association's *Drive and Trail* magazine said service and repair costs had doubled since June 1982. It suggested, however, that this sharp increase could be due in part to false maintenance economies made by motorists earlier in the year.

Japanese cars were found to be cheaper to maintain than European cars in the first three years of their life, but more expensive after that.

Owners of the Ford Escort 1300 spent least on running costs, at 7.8p a mile compared with 8.5p for the second-placed Austin Metro. The best foreign make was Toyota, at 10.7p.

The budget-conscious motorist's practice of buying a new small-engine car and keeping it for three years appears to be a costly mistake. The survey indicates that cars of below 1050cc are cheap to service and repair for the first two years but

increase by 300 per cent in the third year from 0.7p per mile to 3p per mile.

The AA admits that its survey does not include the cost of depreciation, which can add 2600 a year. It suggests, however, that "more people should consider running a 10-year-old 'banger'."

On the basis of its own experience with five "bangers" the AA says: "If you buy an old crock and scrap it a year later, the likelihood is that you will still be better off than those running younger models of the same engine size. Keep your pre-1974 car running for longer than a year and you will be laughing all the way to the bank."

The AA took the average price of a new car in each of the five main engine sizes, calculated their annual depreciation and added the cost of servicing and repairs to give the cost of ownership for up to four years.

It found that in all five engine categories "the best option was to run an old faithful for four years and then scrap it". Any profit made by selling instead of scrapping was regarded as and unexpected bonus.

Action 'cost solicitor £100,000'

The legal argument over the £198,000 solicitor's bill sent to a client by Mr Glanville Davies has already cost the latter about £100,000, a High Court judge was told yesterday.

The Welsh solicitor could face a further demand for more than £50,000 if he loses his High Court costs battle with the wronged client, Mr Leslie Parsons, who has applied to have him struck off.

Mr Davies, aged 60, of Queen Victoria Road, Llanelli, Dyfed, has admitted that his handling of the £198,000 bill submitted to Mr Parsons, managing director of a pickling factory, amounted to "gross and persistent misconduct". The bill was eventually cut to £67,000 by a High Court costing official.

But Mr Davies had, at earlier High Court proceedings, sought to defend the bill. The "punishing costs" of that action were about £100,000, Mr Michael Turner, QC, his counsel, told the court yesterday.

Mr Justice Violett said he would "not have regard to wounds that were self-inflicted".

He reserved judgement.

Less beef and more chicken on home menus

The British are eating on average 17 per cent less beef at home than four years ago, according to a survey published yesterday (John Young, Agricultural Correspondent writes).

Consumption of pork and lamb is also down, while that of poultry is up by 12 per cent, the survey, compiled by a market research firm, Taylor Nelson, says.

Reduction in salt consumption to a half or a quarter of current average intake is recommended in a new report by the National Advisory Committee on Health and Nutrition Education.

HOW IT'S CHEAPER TO RUN A 'BANGER'

Comparison of best ways of running old and newer cars

	'BANGER'		NEWER CAR	
	Average price	(1) Av annual cost (over 4 years)	Average price	(2) Annual cost (over 1 year)
Up to 1050cc	£210	£142	£2975 (1 yr old)	£475
1051-1250cc	£270	£199	£4200 (new)	£419
1251-1550cc	£310	£237	£5100 (new)	£502
1551-1750cc	£350	£281	£5950 (3 yrs old)	£455
1751cc and over	£450	£278	£8150 (3 yrs old)	£478

(1) Net purchase price (2) Net depreciation Source: AA

Wife ignored by 'Victorian' husband

Mr Derek Allen believed his wife Mary should do as she was told. In 29 years of marriage he never asked her opinion, a divorce court judge said yesterday.

Mr Allen, a dentist, always forgot her birthday and their wedding anniversary and never took her or their six children on holiday, or even a day's outing.

He also believed that if she lived at home it was her duty to provide the housekeeping. Sir John Arnold, president of the High Court, family division, said.

Mr Allen, aged 60, who still lives in their "ramshackle" 20-room house in 15 acres of grounds, New Lodge in Bank Mill Lane, Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire, denied that the marriage had broken down.

The judge said that Mr Allen had told him the door was always open to his wife, but asked if he would show her some affection if she came back. He had said: "I can't prophesy that. It would have to be earned."

Sir John said that it was not surprising that Mrs Allen, aged 52, walked out in June, 1981.

Mr Allen had said that the reason he did not communicate was "because he did not think it was worth doing so. He did not think her opinion on anything to do with this marriage was worth taking into account."

He rarely talked to her, and if she wanted to tell him about anything she would be met by a grunt as he watched television or read a newspaper, the judge said.

Mr Allen believed that there was no justification for taking the family on holiday when they lived in the country. "They had fresh air and the opportunity of keeping animals as pets." He also said that it was not practical to leave their cats, dogs, chickens, rabbits and goat.

Mrs Allen, of Mentmore Road, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, also complained that her husband spent no money on the house, and the roof leaked badly. She was kept so short of money, that she had three part-time jobs.

The judge granted Mrs Allen a decree nisi because of her

husband's unreasonable behaviour.

Mr Allen said afterwards: "I had to wait until the children were grown up before I left. But he was so mean, he even gave me an engagement ring that belonged to his first wife. The only presents I ever got were a potato peeler and a hair dryer."

"He had a Victorian attitude that he was the head of the household, and what he said, went. We met when I went to work at his surgery, and I just accepted things the way they were."

Mr Allen said afterwards: "I would still have her back. They say better the devil you know than the one you don't. I never expected much from marriage or life in general. I can't say I have been disappointed."

"I believe the family is like a ship, or a firm, or the army. You have got to have a captain or a managing director. I saw myself as the captain."

"I felt if I was paying the bills I was entitled to call the tune, and I had vastly more experience."

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CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE

NHS targets

Union reforms

Business democracy

We will legislate on levy if TUC plan does not satisfy us - Tebbit

In expressing his determination to make the reforms of the trade unions, Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, urged those who called for greater speed to look at what had already been accomplished and what was already in train.

He was speaking at the Conservative party conference in Blackpool yesterday in the debate on industrial relations.

He said his predecessor, Mr James Prior, had pursued a step by step approach: indeed they had tipped through the political minefield so far without treading on a mine. The 1984 Act would take them further, on schedule, as promised. It would be a far-reaching measure and like that famous brand of lager, it would refresh the places that other Acts could not even reach.

Legislation would give trade unionists secret ballots to elect their leaders. Industrial action called without a ballot would carry no legal immunity and there would have to be a ballot over political funds and the right for trade unionists to choose whether to pay the political levy.

On the levy, Mr Tebbit said that the TUC would come to see him shortly and he hoped they would bring firm proposals to accomplish change and guaranteed enforcement procedures. If they could not satisfy him on procedure and the guarantee then he would have no choice but to ask Parliament to legislate instead.

The debate was opened by Mr John Derriek, Rother Valley, who moved a motion welcoming the Government's commitment to transfer powers away from trade union leaders and back to union members and called on trade unionists to speak up against the links between their unions and the Labour Party, "fostered by unrepresentative political caucus".

Mr Derriek said that it would have been better if the unions were prepared to carry out reforms

Reports from Alan Wood, Robert Morgan, Gordon Wellman, Howard Underwood and Barbara Day

without legislation, but waiting for the likes of Moss Evans to do so was like waiting for Arthur Scargill to talk some sense. It just would not happen (applause).

If the unions wanted to retain legal immunities it was only fair to ask them to conduct themselves in such a way that the union members controlled the union bosses, and not the other way around (applause).

Those union leaders who opposed reform feared it. Their motives were all too similar to the motives of those in Poland and elsewhere behind the Iron Curtain who opposed secret ballots. It was no coincidence that Arthur Scargill, president for life of the union, had said that he opposed Solidarity.

He said: "Given the chance, he's the sort of man who would have given Stalin the benefit of the doubt" (applause). He called for an outright ban on the practice of having to contract out of the political levy.

Mr Alan Paul, vice-chairman of Conservative Trade Unionists, said that he supported the motion. Trade union leaders put about the fairy story that they fully represented their members.

Individuals had taken their trade unions before the certification officer and forced them to repay into the general fund from the political fund. The National Union of Mineworkers had to pay back £72,000 and the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS) had to pay more than £40,000. But the individuals had taken help from the Secretary of State.

Mr Paul said that he was a member of the National and Local Government Officers' Association and he believed the union had acted

in a political way earlier this year when it spent more than £1m on a publicity campaign. But he could only test the issue before the courts which he could not afford to do.

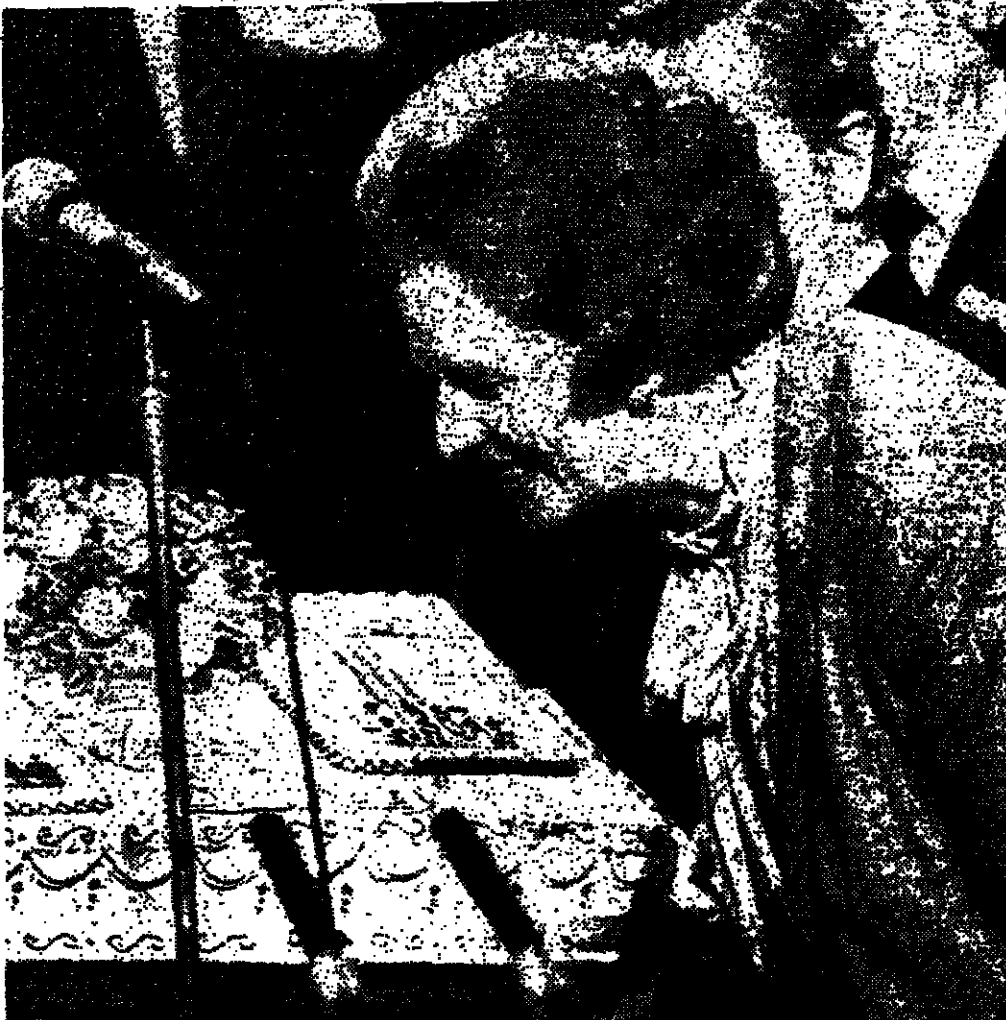
Mr Henry Shaw, Erewash, said that the only way members could control their unions was by being active. No legislation would keep out the Reds if ordinary trade unionists were too idle to attend branch meetings and vote in postal ballots.

Mr Brian Clark, leader of Harrow borough council, said that he had long argued against political unions. They were political vehicles for the union barons whose prime objective was not to serve their members' interests but to take political prisoners for the Labour Party.

One of those prisoners, Loudon Parkin, became unhappy after joining ASTMS about some of the things that union did. He went to the certification officer to query a £2,000 donation to Mr James Callaghan for research, a £43,000 investment in the purchase of a Labour Party headquarters in Walworth Road and the transfer of more than £20,000 from the general to the political fund.

The officer ruled in his favour on those points, so ASTMS took him to court. Loudon won at the Employment Appeals Tribunal, but the costs were several thousand pounds. The union, backed by the funds of other unions, which had indulged in similar practices, was likely to go to the Court of Appeal and possibly to House of Lords.

Was it right that an individual political prisoner should have to put his home at risk to get justice? Justice was being denied by ASTMS, the very body that existed to benefit its members. The Secretary of State should in his legislation attend to such matters as independent audits, availability of information and a trade union ombudsman with teeth.



One more cut: The Prime Minister examining the cake at Blackpool yesterday, her fifty-eighth birthday (Photograph: Brian Harris).

Immigrants crackdown rejected

After a stormy, emotional debate the conference decisively rejected a motion urging the Government to end all further permanent immigration from the New Commonwealth and Pakistan, to increase the financial and material provision for voluntary repatriation and to repeal all race relations legislation.

Mr David Waddington, Minister of State, Home Office, said the policies advocated in the motion were incapable of execution and everyone knew it full well. It would be a tragedy if they appeared to be turning their backs on the fair and just society that Conservatives stood for and had fought for.

The Government was not in the business of telling people who had made their homes here or had even become British citizens: "You are unwelcome. Here is some money. Get off".

The supporters of the motion, moved by Mr Harvey Proctor, MP for Billeray, would have to brush aside the fact that almost half of all the people of New Commonwealth origin living in the country were born here.

"They are British. Are these included among those whom the mover of the resolution wants to go home?" Mr Waddington asked. Loud cheering and booing greeted Mr Proctor when he opened the heated debate on immigration and race relations.

He was moving a motion for Billeray, Conservative MP, to end all further permanent immigration from the New Commonwealth and Pakistan, to increase the financial and material provision for voluntary repatriation and to repeal all race relations legislation so that all UK citizens were equal before the law.

Mr Proctor said that he was honoured to propose the motion. It was a credit to the conference that it was proposed to discuss immigration and its consequences, particularly in the inner cities and urban conurbations. When some would have them remain silent (applause).

In 1970, the party manifesto rightly pledged there would be no further large-scale, permanent immigration from the New Commonwealth. Since then, more than half a million New Commonwealth and Pakistan people had been accepted for permanent settlement in Britain.

Mr Waddington, replying, said great numbers of immigrants put their faith in the Conservative party at the last election. Labour's was a bizarre story of broken promises and fumbling failure which it was hard to credit. How and it would be if Conservatives made themselves look as futile.

Mr Waddington, replying, said great numbers of immigrants put their faith in the Conservative party at the last election. Labour's was a bizarre story of broken promises and fumbling failure which it was hard to credit. How and it would be if Conservatives made themselves look as futile.

'Give people a stake in their workplace'

The Conservative party duly welcomed the man in the news, Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, who accompanied by the Prime Minister and his wife, Ann Parkinson, received a standing ovation from a large majority of the representatives when he went to the platform and likewise at the end of his speech.

As he replied to the debate on free enterprise and industry, Mr Parkinson said that they must launch a drive to make Britain a democracy in which people not only owned their own home but had a stake in the business in which they worked.

It would be done by spreading and encouraging self-employment, encouraging new business and enabling people to buy a share in nationalized industries as they were sold back to the public. In the case of British Telecom he intended that every subscriber and employee should have that opportunity.

Mr Harold MacKenzie, Escher, opened the debate by moving a motion, which said: "That the conference would 'keep to the present Government's second' term of office remembered as a period in which consumers, employees, investors and taxpayers all gained lasting benefits from the continued decision-making in state ownership of industry and in public sector monopolies. It would therefore support a programme of vigorous action."

Mr MacKenzie said that the Government had pointed the way by taking radical measures. It could not rest there. If its highest aspirations were to be realized it would have to take in the second term of office measures, which were no less radical.

Mrs Ewa Swallow, Halifax, in a plea for small shopkeepers, of whom she is one, said: "We are being strangled but we have to soldier on. We cannot put in for a pay rise."

Mr Paul Johnston, Leigh, opposed the motion because, he said, it took no account of one of the most pressing problems facing firms, the way in which the activities of socialist controlled local authorities were stifling enterprise.

Mr Parkinson said: "I am here today as Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. But before that I had

Motorways 'our priority'

Mr Tom King King, Secretary of State for Transport, speaking during the transport debate, emphasized the priority the Government was giving to motorway building and repairing.

On motorway diversions, annoying though they might be, were worse than the Government's determination to stop the deterioration of road surfaces.

On the railways, Mr King said he would be setting out in Parliament shortly his policy for the years ahead.

The conference carried a motion welcoming the steps taken by the Government to provide a greater variety of transport opportunities and urging it to encourage greater productivity and efficiency in all sectors of transport.

During these difficult negotiations we have two separate aims. First to organize the most regular of the CAP and the financial system of the community so that the cost of the CAP rises slower than the income of the community. Second, to ensure that the package which is finally worked out is one where Britain is not treated unfairly.

Mr Jopling announced that farmers in marginal areas were likely to get increased government aid. The Government was asking the Council of Ministers to agree to a commission proposal that the less favoured areas should be 'extended'.

In a brief reference to the horticultural industry, Mr Jopling said that he was glad to see the end of the unfair gap subsidy provided by the Dutch Government to its glasshouse sector.

Earlier, Mr Alastair Gammell, Mid-Bedfordshire, moved a motion later carried. Urging the Government to have proper regard for the future of the British livestock, horticultural and glasshouse sectors.

Mrs Angela Clarke, Wight and East Hampshire, moved an amendment, also carried, noting the public dissent at surprise. One question was the sale of dairy products to the Soviet Union at a price below that the British consumer had to pay.

NHS cuts 'must be aimed at managers'

In seeking savings of 4,800 posts out of a total in the National Health Service (NHS) of £20,000, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, emphasized that he would like to see these directed at the administrative tail of the service and not concentrated on the nurses. It would be the Government's aim to achieve a better managed health service.

Mr Fowler, who received a standing ovation, said that the Government remained absolutely committed to the health service spending on which over the last four years had increased from £7,150m to £15,560m. The aim was to help the service meet the greater pressures of demand that lay ahead.

Changes, not aimed at destroying the service, included cutting out waste and reducing the drug bill, opening up dental and auxiliary services to competition and promoting partnership between the NHS and the private sector.

The short-sighted attitude of the Labour Party and certain health unions to the contribution made by the private sector to health care was condemned by Mr Philip Glemser when he opened the debate, on health.

On behalf of the Newport West Conservative Association, he moved a motion welcoming the Government's reaffirmation of its commitment to the NHS and emphasizing its central role in partnership with other providers of health care.

Those, like him, who worked in and with the health service knew they were not running the service anything like as efficiently as they could. They were saddled with this bureaucracy. Only the Government could take the necessary steps to impose control at the top of health authorities by the appointment of a supreme arbitrator, veto and exercise final judgment (applause).

Mr Fowler was applauded when he said: "Not only is the health service safe with us, but it is infinitely safer than it would be under any of the policies put forward by the Labour Party."

He asked by what right and on what basis would they challenge his monopoly of concern. The last Labour Government imposed the biggest capital cuts on the health

service and Labour ministers approved the closure of 272 hospitals, well over double what had happened since. That was what Labour did in practice.

The Government was devoting more resources to patient care than any other government in history.

"We remain absolutely committed to the National Health Service," Mr Fowler assured the conference.

He said that over the next few years the health service would see greater pressures of demand, but these would be change, but change aimed at achieving a stronger health service, not change aimed at destroying it.

Change meant improving ways of preventing ill health. Too few of the emphasis was on cure and not enough on prevention.

Change meant cutting out waste. The service spent £140m a year on telephone bills, stationery, office equipment and postage, spent more than £280m a year on advertising jobs to its own staff. There was room for saving in those areas and in many others.

Change meant opening up hospital domestic services to competition.

Change meant promoting partnership between the health service and the private sector. In the last months there were unmistakable signs that a constructive partnership between the two was now developing.

Above all, change meant getting the maximum value for money and here manpower must be of the essence. The health service was the biggest employer in Britain. This represented three quarters of the cost of the health service.

Eighteen months ago he asked authorities to bring forward plans for the control of their manpower. The response came late but it was unmistakable. Instead of a levelling out there was going to be an increase of 7,000, and most of the jobs would have been for administrators, ancillaries and works staff.

It would have been wrong to ignore that trend. After allowing for manpower needs for new development the department asked for savings of 4,800 posts out of a total of £20,000, just one half of 1 per cent.

Mr Fowler asserted, and applause: "Famously it is ludicrous to change that reduction of one half of 1 per cent of the staff of the biggest employers in Western Europe marks the end of the health service as we know it. What it does mean is that we must save lives with health authorities will have £40m for use elsewhere in the service."

The motion was carried.

Today's debates

This afternoon's speech by Mrs Margaret Thatcher will bring the conference to a close. This morning, Mr Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, will reply to the debate on a motion reaffirming the party's commitment to the EEC. There will also be a debate on the abolition of the GEC.

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Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

The most remarkable feature of this conference is that the Conservatives should be relieved that it has gone as well as it has. This is an indication of how the fortunes of the government have changed since it won such a massive general election victory only four months ago. Instead of looking for a joyous victory celebration, the party is glad to get through the week without too much embarrassment.

The particular reason for this is the Parkinson affair. But this is the kind of episode that is seriously damaging only to a government that has lost its way in other respects. The most critical task for Mrs Thatcher when she speaks to the conference today is to convince the party that the government has not lost its momentum or its sense of direction.

Beneath the surface at Blackpool there has been some anxiety on both scores. There is also a basic disagreement over the government's long-term strategy, which has not caused much difficulty this week, but seems likely to be a source of future argument. Mr Nigel Lawson's first speech to a Conservative conference as Chancellor was less than a rhetorical triumph but its policy implications were far-reaching.

Tax cuts are to be a high priority of his stewardship at the Treasury. Moreover, he declared, "I am not going to follow the primrose path of financing tax reductions by letting borrowing rip."

This might seem a fairly standard argument to deploy at a Conservative conference. But Mr Lawson's policy is in fact significantly more daring than either that offered by the Conservatives at the election, or that followed in practice by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Mr Lawson's predecessor.

At the election the official Conservative line was to give a desirable aspiration rather than a top priority. A year ago when Sir Geoffrey was seeking to impress his Cabinet colleagues with the necessity to cut expenditure drastically, he warned them that taxation was otherwise likely to rise to astronomical heights - unless, that is, the economy were to grow consistently at a faster pace than he clearly thought it prudent to assume.

Perhaps Mr Lawson's assumptions about the country's growth of the economy are much more optimistic than Sir Geoffrey's, which would indeed be daring. Otherwise Mr Lawson is promising to reduce public spending not only by enough to prevent inflation rises, but by the still larger amounts required to cut taxes - without any juggling with the borrowing requirement.

This presents a double difficulty. The savings required are liable to be formidable, and by proclaiming that they are required, partly in order to finance tax cuts, Mr Lawson may have made it more difficult to secure large economies. Hard-pressed spending ministers might argue that it would be better to forgo the tax concessions and cut expenditure rather less, especially as the opinion polls suggest that is the option the public would prefer.

It follows that if Mr Lawson pursues his policy with determination, there will be all probability have to be a serious debate in Cabinet on the strategy on which it is based. Is such a debate, some spending ministers, who are not usually numbered among the Wets, might find themselves ranged alongside the few remaining Wet ministers.

The old Wet-Dry debate is for the moment no longer such a prominent feature of Conservative politics. The Dries are dominant in Cabinet: although Mr Biffen took a very different line from Mr Lawson on *Weekend World* on Sunday he is not regarded as a consistent Wet. In the party at large Sir Ian Gilmour has raised the standard of revolt against Mr Lawson's policy, but there has not been the sense of drama in the conflict between Wets and Dries that there was two years ago.

Although there has been some measure beneath the surface, there has been little open conflict at this conference. It is too soon after the election for anxieties to harden. Next year it may be different. If Mr Lawson is not able by then to provide evidence that he is on the right course.

Tories are a party of trade unionists, minister says

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, replying to the debate on industrial relations, began by assuring the conference: "We are a party of trade unionists these days."

When the TUC changed its mind and agreed to discuss the reforms which would be embodied in the Bill he would present Parliament later this month he welcomed that decision. "But when they say they want to abandon this bill but all other reforms as a precondition of an open agenda on union reform I have to say: 'Where have you been these last two years? how can you claim to be in touch with your members when time and time again they repudiate you?'"

He pointed out that six out of ten trade union members for parties proposing reforms of the kind he proposed. In the real world most trade unionists were not Labour supporters. In the real world trade unionists wanted the right to elect their leaders.

Industrial relations reform, he recalled, had been seen as a political minefield. But Mr James Prior, the previous Secretary of State for Employment, and he had pursued a step by step approach.

"We have tipped through the minefield, so far without treading on a mine. Indeed the only casualties so far have been on the TUC side. They have been left hanging on the barbed wire of their own defences."

The legislation giving trades unionists a legal guarantee of their right to free and secret ballots to elect their leaders would be flexibly drawn. Representative leaders would be less likely to call strikes against the members' wishes and if industrial action was called without a ballot the funds of the unions would be at risk.

In future no union would be able lawfully to maintain a political fund without having obtained the agreement of its members to a secret ballot during the preceding 10 years. Every trade unionist should also have a free, unfettered, fair, informed choice of whether he or she should or should not pay the levy.

He was accused of wanting to destroy the Labour Party by cutting off its funds but why on earth should he trouble to do that when the leadership was destroying its own party? The issue was not the Labour Party, but the rights of the ordinary trade unionist and those rights given under the 1913 Act were being denied him.

The reforms were needed not only to give trade unionists the right. They had their part to play in restoring the economy.



Mr Norman Tebbit: "Most union members do not vote Labour."

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Europe's farm policy 'obese'

The British Government would continue to press the EEC Commission to put its agricultural house in order, Mr Michael Jopling, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said when replying to a debate on the farming industry. He made it clear that the Government was far from happy with proposals on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

Mr Jopling said that only Britain and West Germany were net contributors to the EEC budget and he would like to see more states hesitate before voting for more expensive proposals.

There was an urgent need to recognize things in the common agricultural policy to tackle the surpluses. This was essential if there was to be a prudent and realistic agricultural policy. The CAP had grown obese and needed to be slimmed.

The immediate areas of concern were milk, cereals, wine and a number of other Mediterranean commodities. Here they had to use the fundamental devices of price discipline linked to the commission's own guarantee thresholds, extended as necessary to other problem areas.

That was the best way to tackle the problem. There was some support for the commission's proposed "super-levy" for milk. It was a poor substitute for a realistic price level and could easily become



Mr Jopling: "Government unhappy with CAP."

a device to favour small, inefficient farmers. It was not for the CAP market regime either to penalize large-scale, efficient farmers as they were proposing or to subsidize their small, inefficient counterparts. If individual states wanted to do that, it should be done through controlled, nationally based funds. "We shall continue to press the commission to put the house in order," he said. "Especially, we shall resist some of the easy options the commission have proposed, many of which add up to a package which discriminates against UK interests."

"They have made attacks on our beef and sheep meat prices and the butter subsidy. The attack is ill-conceived, particu-

larly because those aids helps consumers and reduce the need for intervention buying."

"During these difficult negotiations we have two separate aims. First to organize the most regular of the CAP and the financial system of the community so that the cost of the CAP rises slower than the income of the community. Second, to ensure that the package which is finally worked out is one where Britain is not treated unfairly."

Mr Jopling announced that farmers in marginal areas were likely to get increased government aid. The Government was asking the Council of Ministers to agree to a commission proposal that the less favoured areas should be 'extended'.

In a brief reference to the horticultural industry, Mr Jopling said that he was glad to see the end of the unfair gap subsidy provided by the Dutch Government to its glasshouse sector.

Earlier, Mr Alastair Gammell, Mid-Bedfordshire, moved a motion later carried. Urging the Government to have proper regard for the future of the British livestock, horticultural and glasshouse sectors.

Mrs Angela Clarke, Wight and East Hampshire, moved an amendment, also carried, noting the public dissent at surprise. One question was the sale of dairy products to the Soviet Union at a price below that the British consumer had to pay.

Free pro a ch

French joie

Benn seeks independence UK stance

Free Christmas butter proposal provokes a clash in the EEC

From Patricia Clough, Strasbourg

The European Parliament insisted yesterday that a large part of the EEC butter mountain should be given away free at Christmas. In a clash of wills members called on the European Commission to drop its objection to their scheme under which one packet of butter would be given away with every two bought at the normal price. They wanted up to 200,000 tonnes of butter to be given away.

The commission has objected because the Community is running out of cash, and it cannot raise the £200m needed to finance the scheme.

On Wednesday, Mr. Piet Dankert, the Parliament's president, refused to allow amendment to the budget to finance the scheme because it would have broken through the ceiling of the funds available.

But yesterday, the members voted 57 to 20 in favour of the plan after Herr Heinrich Aigner, the rapporteur of the budgetary control committee, said it could be financed out of the next budget.

The Commission maintains that the scheme is one of the most expensive ways of reducing the 800,000-tonne butter mountain - one of the cheapest being the highly unpopular practice of selling it to the Russians.

Last year, a related scheme to

sell 120,000 tonnes of butter cheaply after Christmas was regarded as unsatisfactory, as it increased consumption by only 25 per cent.

Herr Aigner yesterday produced figures which, he said, showed that the EEC would actually be saving some £170m with this year's scheme. He also claimed that it would increase consumption by 66 per cent, and not 25 per cent as the Commission estimates.

Mr. Poul Dalsager, the Agriculture Commissioner, told Parliament that the scheme was "high on cost, low on cost effectiveness". He pleaded for the Commission's own three-year-old plan to impose a superlevy on production which neither the government nor Parliament support.

The dairy problem is at the very centre of our struggle to survive a political and budgetary crisis of a magnitude that can affect the whole future of our community," he said.

● BRUSSELS: The EEC will not have enough money to cover its running costs unless the Community introduces a tax on oils and fats, which the US has already said would lead to a trade war, (Ian Murray writes). Unless fiercely resisted measures to control dairy product and to abolish the green currency system are agreed there will be no leeway for the

Community to meet emergencies.

The latest European Commission estimates for next year are as gloomy as can be and take no account of the extra money that will be needed in January to pay back up to £360m which the community could overspend this year.

In the best of all possible worlds - including agreement on these difficult subjects - about £750m of economies could be made next year. Without them, under present rules there will not be enough money to go round.

The commission has been given breathing space by the agreement on Wednesday of the European Parliament to a supplementary budget which earmarks about £1,440m for agriculture.

But there seems little or no chance that this will be enough to meet all this year's commitments and therefore some payments will have to come out of next year's already over-stretched budget.

A game of "chicken" is in progress with everyone waiting to see who will crack first, Britain or the rest. Britain is by now said to be isolated on its main demands for a fairer system of budget payments and for strict and enforceable limits on farm spending.



Kenyans welcome freedom for Odinga

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

Kenyans generally have welcomed the release of two of the 12 Kenyans held in detention since last year's coup attempt and the political crisis here, and the freeing from restriction of the former Vice-President, Mr. Oginga Odinga, who had been forbidden to leave his house since last November.

Professor Al-Amin Mazrui, of Kenyatta University College, and Mr. John Khaminwa, a Nairobi lawyer, were both freed on Wednesday within a few hours of the formal swearing-in of President Moi for a five-year term of office.

The two were detained last year, before the August 1 coup

attempt, when the first signs of political dissent appeared. Another 10 Kenyans, including some university lecturers, are still detained.

Those still being held include Mr. Raitia Odinga, a son of Mr. Oginga Odinga, who was at one time charged with treason after the coup attempt.

Shipwrecked in paradise: Six young British castaways from Essex comfortably in Victoria, Seychelles, after being rescued from the remote Indian Ocean atoll of Astove, 500 miles south of Mahe. The skipper, Mr. Stephen Jarrett, said their ferrous concrete ketch is now lying in fragments at the bottom of a four-mile long coral reef after being wrecked in a storm.

50 Soviet ships stuck in Arctic ice

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The seriousness of the emergency facing Soviet ships trapped in Arctic ice became apparent yesterday when the official in charge of rescue operations disclosed that some 50 vessels had been caught in the frozen sea of Chukotsk.

Both *Pravda* and *Sovietskaya Rossiya* carried reports on the crisis, caused by unusually low temperatures since the beginning of the month. The sea of Chukotsk, which usually remains ice-free around the Siberian coastline, allowing ships to pass through, has been frozen solid for two weeks.

Izvestiya reported this week that some of the trapped ships were ironically enough - icebreakers which had failed to break through the thickening ice and force a channel for the other stranded vessels.

Reports said that the ice was gradually crushing the hulls of the trapped ships, and in one case the crew of the cargo ship Nina Sagaidak had to be rescued when packed ice cracked the hull and the hold was flooded.

The ships had been carrying supplies to remote coastal towns on the Siberian side of the Chukotsk sea. One of the icebreakers sent to help them, the Leonid Brezhnev, broke down and is undergoing repairs.

Socialists in doldrums but...

French vote yes to joie de vivre

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Despite the worst economic crisis since the Second World War, the most unpopular President under the Fifth Republic, mounting East-West tensions, and the danger of becoming embroiled in wars in Chad, Lebanon and the Gulf, 92 per cent of French people say they are happy - 3 per cent more than 10 years ago when France was still riding high on the crest of a wave of prosperity.

In answer to the question: "If you were asked point blank 'are you happy?' what would you reply?", 24 per cent said they were "very happy" and 68 per cent "quite happy" while only 1 per cent described themselves as "very unhappy". When the same question was asked in 1973, 89 per cent said they were either very, or quite happy.

The almost Panglossian image of France as the best of all possible worlds suggested by the findings of the poll which was carried out for the *Nouvel Observateur* magazine by the respected Sofres polling institute, is at total variance with the image presented by the opposition RPR Gaullist party in its censure motion of the Government.

The motion which was heavily defeated after a heated debate in Parliament on Wednesday night, accused the Government of "weakening our economy, bringing our country into ever greater debt, dividing the people and crushing them

with taxes and compulsory levies, lowering standards in schools and in health care, failing to take the necessary measures to tackle the (Corsican) separatists, delaying the modernization of our defence and threatening fundamental human liberties".

It was the sixth censure motion in Parliament tabled by the opposition since the Socialists came to power two and a half years ago. All have been defeated. The Socialists have an absolute majority in the lower House. Although nine out of 10 French people claim to be happy, most feel that the nation as a whole is less happy than it was 10 years ago.

War was seen as the greatest obstacle to future happiness, 57 per cent saying they feared a new outbreak. Unemployment was also a dominant worry: 41 per cent mentioned it compared with only 26 per cent 10 years ago.

Racism, of which there has been so much talk of late in France, appeared to be negligible concern. It was mentioned by only 3 per cent.

The most important ingredients for personal happiness were good health, loving relationships, the family and freedom to do what you want. God was also mentioned by half the sample. Only 3 per cent said they considered wealth important. Those claiming to be "very happy", however, included a disproportionate number of those well off.

S African Coloured leader quits

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Mr David Curry, the chairman of the Labour Party, the main political organization of South Africa's mixed race coloured population, has resigned, ostensibly to devote himself more fully to Coloured local government affairs.

Speaking by telephone from Bloemfontein, where he is attending a housing conference, Mr Curry insisted that his decision was taken for purely personal reasons and had no political significance. He said he would remain a member of the party.

Despite this disclaimer, Mr Curry's resignation, which he handed in without warning to the party leader, the Reverend Allan Hendrickse, was widely seen as evidence of strains within the party over its decision to participate in the Government's new constitutional structure.

The Government's Constitution Bill would create a new tricameral Parliament for whites, Coloureds and Indians. Blacks, more than 70 per cent of the total population, would continue to have no parliamentary representation. The Bill has already been passed by the existing all-white Parliament and will be implemented if a majority of whites vote for it at a referendum on November 2.

Under pressure, Mr Hendrickse has asked the Prime Minister, Mr P. W. Botha, for a separate referendum to be held to test Coloured opinion, a request which has so far received no answer.

Mr Hendrickse said yesterday that if such a referendum were held, and produced a "no" majority, his party would have to reconsider its position.



Mr Benn: "French farmers more likely to invade than Russian troops".

Benn seeks independent UK stance

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Wedgwood Benn yesterday called for Britain to adopt new foreign and defence policies which would lead it towards non-alignment with East or West.

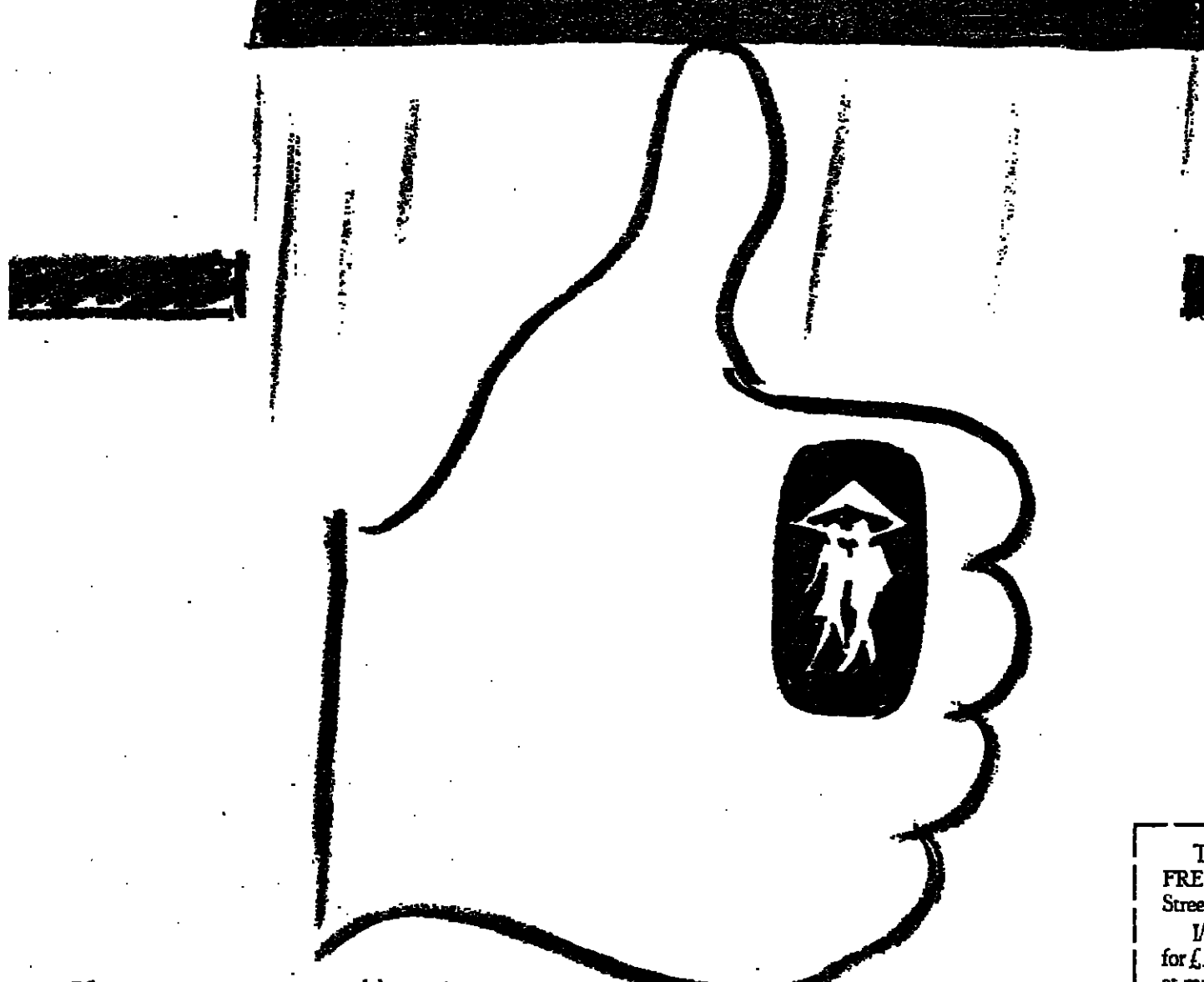
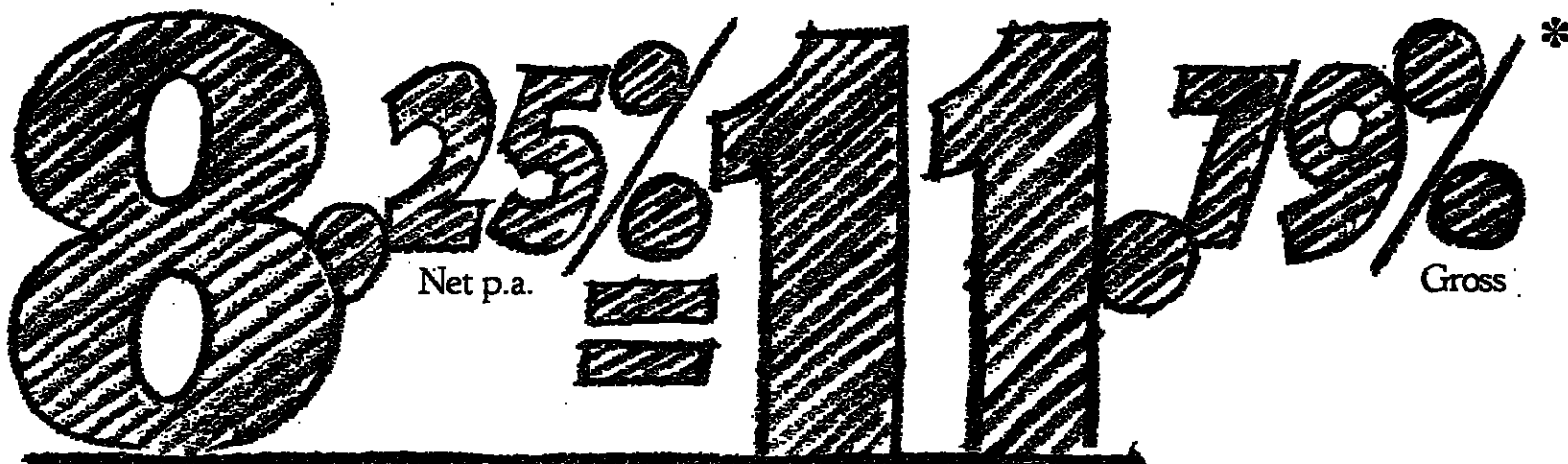
The present cold war was infinitely more dangerous than that at the time of the Berlin blockade, because of the number of nuclear weapons. People were "very, very frightened", he said.

But despite the "paranoid propaganda" he thought the Soviet Union more concerned by its internal security than any aggressive intentions toward the West.

Protesting French farmers were likely to reach Dover before Russian troops, he told the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House).

There were genuine fears that there existed in the White House a school of thought that believed the arms race could be used to bankrupt the Soviet Union and that the West could fight and win a limited war in Europe.

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Glenn forces missiles issue into arena of presidential election

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Senator John Glenn's proposal for a temporary freeze on the deployment of ground-launched cruise missiles in Europe has created exactly the type of situation which the United States and its Nato partners wanted to avoid when they decided in December 1979 to go ahead with deployment at the end of this year.

In choosing the end of 1983 for the deployment of 572 Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in Europe the Western leaders have deliberately tried to ensure that it would not become an issue in the 1984 American presidential election.

However, Senator Glenn's proposal, made during a speech to the National Press Club in Washington on Wednesday, has brought the issue to the centre of the American political debate at a critical moment in the deadlock Intermediate-range Nuclear Force talks in Geneva.

The Reagan Administration and Western European leaders

strongly oppose a delay on the ground that it would reduce pressure on Moscow to reach an agreement in Geneva and could weaken the mood in favour of deployment.

The first 16 of the 160 cruise missiles eventually destined for Britain are due to be installed at Greenham Common in December.

Senator Glenn, who is considered a front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination next year, described the cruise missile as the single most potentially destabilizing weapon in existence.

He proposed a temporary freeze on deployment because it was necessary to make one last-ditch effort to keep a cruise missile race from occurring.

Political observers here believe the senator's remarks were intended to dispel some of the criticism being made by his Democratic rivals, notably former Vice-President Walter Mondale, about his conservative views on defence.

In recent political debates Mr Mondale and other Democratic hopefuls have pointed out that Mr Glenn had voted in support of Reagan Administration plans to resume production of chemical weapons and to go ahead with the development of the controversial B1 long-range bomber.

Although the senator has paid lip-service to nuclear freeze resolutions, he has made it clear he still broadly supports the Reagan Administration's huge defence modernization programme.

His views on defence, on which he speaks with the authority of a former Marine Corps pilot and astronaut, have been criticized by liberal Democrats who contend he is a "closet conservative" holding political viewpoints similar to President Reagan. His vote in favour of the President's tax cut programme in 1981 has also been strongly attacked.

The image battle, page 12

Moscow prepares propaganda blast

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

As Mr Andriy Gromyko arrived in Sofia yesterday for a meeting of Warsaw pact foreign ministers, diplomats in Moscow said the Soviet leadership was about to launch a final propaganda blast on arms reduction in the hope that Nato would postpone its planned missile deployment.

It was said that although the foreign ministers of the Warsaw Pact regularly meet every six months today's session would be far from routine.

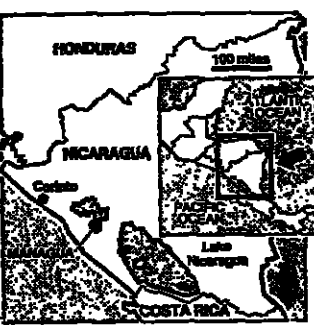
The meeting coincides with reports from Geneva that the Soviet Union has threatened to abandon the talks on medium range missiles, and with the beginning of a hot autumn of anti-nuclear protests in West Germany.

Diplomats said the Russians were hoping to sway public opinion in Western Europe, and particularly in West Germany, against the planned deployment of cruise and Pershing 2 missiles in December. Mr

Gromyko is to meet Herr Hans Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, in Vienna at the weekend, immediately after the Sofia meeting.

The Warsaw Pact expected to outline its response to the Nato deployment, warning the West that Moscow would station rockets in Eastern Europe and take appropriate measures to threaten the United States directly.

Fire rescue squad save blazing port



Managua (Reuters) - Firefighters from four countries yesterday managed to control the huge blaze started by rebels in a sea raid on Corinto, Nicaragua's biggest port. But 15 people were injured, fuel tanks damaged and 660 tonnes of UN medicines and food aid destroyed.

The 40,000 inhabitants of Corinto - an island connected to the mainland by a bridge - were evacuated on Wednesday.

India fences off Bangladesh

Delhi (Reuters) - India will start building a barbed-wire fence along its 2,050-mile border with Bangladesh next month to prevent illegal crossings into Assam, the scene of ethnic violence last February in which 3,000 died.

Bangladesh objects to the fence on the ground that it would violate a border agreement between the two states.

Women protest

Manila (AP) - Cheered on by several thousand office workers, about 7,000 women, including nuns, students, secretaries and high society matrons accompanied by white-clad servants, marched in a hail of confetti through Manila's business district of Makati to protest against the Marcos regime and the assassination of Benigno Aquino.

Walesa denial

Warsaw (AP) - Mr Lech Walesa denied press reports that he has decided personally to attend ceremonies in Norway on December 10 to accept his Nobel Peace Prize. "The question is still open," the Solidarity founder said on the telephone.

Death plunge

Pachuca, Mexico (AP) - Thirteen miners were killed and three injured when the cable of a cable car bringing them to the surface at the San Juan Pachuca silver mine snapped, plunging them down 900ft.

Etendards coming soon, Iraq insists

By Our Foreign Staff

France has not yet delivered five Super-Etendard fighter-bombers promised to Iraq, President Saddam Hussein said yesterday. But he added that the aircraft would be delivered before the end of the month.

President Hussein told a press conference in Baghdad that he believed the delay was due to "pressure brought by the United States and especially Britain" on the French Government.

"In light of this pressure," he said, "we have been in contact with the French authorities and they have affirmed that they will respect their commitments."

He said France had imposed no conditions on Iraq concerning the use of the planes. "We refuse conditions on arms that we buy with our own money," he declared. "We are an independent country."

But he acknowledged that there had been "a friendly exchange of views on the subject between French and Iraqi officials."

The Iraqi leader did not rule out an Iranian blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, a critical passageway for oil tankers, but

he said "it would be an act of folly."

"It would be flagrant blackmail on the part of Iran," he continued, "and if the world gives in to it, it would lead to an endless series of such moves" as Iran would continue to threaten to close the waterway.

Iran has said it would close the strait if Iraq used the Super-Etendards to attack Iranian oil facilities.

President Hussein claimed that the sophisticated French jets were not the only aircraft that could be used against naval targets. "We have other planes equipped with Exocet missiles that can carry out the same missions," he said.

Gulf war never has added a fresh element of uncertainty to world oil markets, putting as much as 50 cents a barrel on the value of crude, industry sources said in London.

The upward trend gathered pace overnight after an official Iraqi claim that two Iranian vessels, including a warship, had been sunk near Iran's main gulf oil terminal at Kharg Island.

Super-Etendards were apparently not involved.

In the first of nationwide protests taking place in the next nine days, several thousand people yesterday lay down outside the American barracks in Bremerhaven and blockaded the North Sea port in protest against the deployment of Nato missiles in Germany.

Police carried away about 100 people from the roadway leading to the Carl Schurz barracks, but the demonstration remained peaceful. Long queues of lorries attempting to reach the harbour were eventually able to get through after police had cleared a way through the demonstrators in the afternoon.

The Government had given warnings that professional trouble-makers bent on provoking violence were converging on Bremerhaven, and the local police were strengthened by thousands from elsewhere.

But the atmosphere in the cold, bright sun remained friendly, and the demonstrators discussed arms policies and deployment with soldiers on the other side of the barriers erected outside the barracks.

Germans wage war on cruise

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

At Nordenham across the River Weser another unauthorized protest March ended at the harbour where equipment for the American forces in Germany is unloaded. No incidents were reported, however, and the marchers shared supplies with harbour officials.

The Bremerhaven blockade is planned to end as the week of action against deployment begins tomorrow. Yesterday leaders of the peace movement held informal talks with the Social Democratic Party over SPD participation in next week's rallies and the party's position on the Geneva arms talks.

Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, the SPD parliamentary leader, and Herr Richard von Weizsäcker, the Christian Democratic Mayor of West Berlin, both gave separate warnings yesterday to demonstrators not to use violence, which Herr Vogel said his party strictly abjured.

Meanwhile, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, told Parliament that he was meeting Mr Andrei Gromyko, his Soviet counter-

part, in Vienna at the weekend because West Germany was interested in a long-term improvement in Soviet-German relations.

Mr Paul Nitz, the chief American negotiator in Geneva, and Mr Kenneth Adelman, head of the arms control and disarmament agency, had talks here yesterday with Herr Genscher and with the Chancellor's Office about the latest position in Geneva, and what Herr Genscher could expect from the Soviet Foreign Minister.

The blockade at Bremerhaven marks the start of one of the most turbulent periods in West Germany's postwar history, as the protest movement against the missile deployment takes to the streets in unprecedented numbers.

For the next nine days there will be rallies, marches, vigils, sit-down protests and acts of civil disobedience throughout the country, culminating in four huge demonstrations next Saturday in which well over a million people are expected to take part.

Letter from Warsaw

Unofficial diplomacy and all that jazz

Nowadays, of course, the music of protest has a different timbre. For those with strong stomachs, the story is eloquently told by the titles of the groups and songs, at the Jarocin Rock Music Festival held this summer deep in provincial Poland: Sewage, Lavatory Bowl, Defecation, Degeneration, Dissection Room, Dead Organisms, Delirium Tremens, Doom, Paralysis.

Those are just the printable names, all of them tipping easily enough off the lips of the disillusioned post-Solidarity generation.

There was a time, not so long ago, when the music of protest was expressed through an unamplified jazz saxophone. In the Stalinist 1950s, both the spontaneity of jazz and its American heritage were seen as a dangerous threat to the system, an attempt by imperialist agents to brainwash the young Socialist generation.

Two Soviet tracts - *The Music of Spiritual Poverty* by V. Gordodinsky and *Dollar Cacophony* by I. Nestrjev - set the ideological guidelines for the whole of Eastern Europe.

In Poland, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, jazz players were harassed by secret policemen, expelled from music academies, constantly thwarted in attempts to stage even modest concerts. Totalitarianism and jazz are incompatible.

Witness the case of Ady Kozak, a jazz trumpeter who fled from Germany to Poland when Hitler came to power in 1933, set up a big band in Warsaw, then fled, one step ahead of the Germans, to the Soviet Union, where he played on until deemed ideologically suspect. He ended up introducing jazz to the Gulag during a labour camp sentence.

Jazz has come out of the cold. That much is clear from the fact that next week the Poles are staging the twenty-fifth international jazz jamboree in the huge wedding-cake structure that goes by the name of the Palace of Culture, Stalin's most enduring gift to Poland and the least lovely building in Warsaw.

The most significant part of the jamboree, however, is not the totalitarian architecture of its venue, but the presence of a line-up of East-West relations - assuming the quality of permanent of America's leading jazz musician, Miles Davis, and dozens of other Western artists.

Jazz has become an instrument of unofficial cultural diplomacy. Outside the US Embassy library there is a permanent corridor of armed militiamen to prevent Poles from entering, and exposing themselves to American values. On the official level all cultural links have been cut. Reagan is the boss.

Yet jazz is keeping the relationship alive, and already it is possible to see the first articles any more. "Should I write for my own ego? Why write an article that will never be read by the typewriter?"

The answer is a cruel irony: it was a staunch advocate of the Solidarity. In January 1978 Solidarity's father, then editor, was assassinated by the hated Somoza regime for lambasting it so vehemently, continuously and effectively.

The watchdogs of communist culture are busily chewing at the trouser-legs of other victims: dissident writers, punk groups, actors, film makers. For the moment, jazz is that most terrible thing: respectable. It has survived worse indignities.

Roger Boyes

How Managua pulls the teeth of a paper tiger

From Christopher Thomas, Managua

Each afternoon at 5.30 a driver leaves the office of La Prensa in Managua with proofs of the next day's paper. Señorita Males Cecilia Blandon, the chief censor is already waiting.

The sign on her door at the Ministry of the Interior says: "Office of Media Communications". Every day Señorita Blandon, aged 24, and her staff of five or six tinkers, tamper, alter and eliminate as they see fit. There is no appeal above the might of Señorita Blandon's pen.

When she is done, La Prensa gets a telephone call and the driver heads off to retrieve what is left. On an average day four out of every 10 stories might incur her displeasure. On a bad day she can curdle up so much that the paper does not publish.

La Prensa is an opposition newspaper that is not allowed to oppose. Since the Sandinista regime introduced a state of siege 18 months ago nearly three years after the revolution, freedom of the press has vanished.

The staff is dedicated and endangered. Reporters have been beaten up. Editors' homes have been stoned. There are threatening telephone calls. On Wednesday night unidentified attackers fired two rockets at the building causing minor damage but no one was injured. Señor Pedro Chamorro, the editor, does not write leading

articles any more. "Should I write for my own ego? Why write an article that will never be read by the typewriter?"

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The paper continued to be boycotted and intimidated. Today, Señorita Blandon does the job for the Sandinistas. At times she is random and unpredictable. Stories that make the other two papers are banned. Paragraphs are removed so that stories make no sense. Headlines are rejected and photographs are thrown out.

Frank speaking from two royal personalities

Duke pleads for birth control

Bangkok (Reuters) - The Duke of Edinburgh said yesterday that without voluntary population controls the world would be faced with starvation, disease and probably conflicts.

The Duke told a press conference here: "The world's population is growing at such a rate and the demands for resources are growing even faster that unless people voluntarily decide not to have so many children we are merely going to build up greater and greater problems."

A point would be reached where we would "be faced with the only traditional control of population, which is starvation and disease and probably conflicts."

The Duke, who arrived in Bangkok in Wednesday from Hongkong during an Asian tour to raise funds for the World Wildlife Fund, of which he is president, said that he was not opposed to people exploiting the world's resources. But a deliberate decision had to be made not to exploit resources faster than they were regenerated.



Princess talks 'Strine'

Princess Anne cracking a joke with Michael Parkinson during her television interview in Australia, during which she dismissed reports that her marriage was in trouble.

She told several stories of her life and family in a rare and frank glimpse into the problems of a woman who has often been criticized for being aloof and arrogant.

"There's a lot of areas in which uninformed gossip has been going on for years," she said, commenting on the marriage rumour. At one moment she cracked a joke, mimicking an Australian accent.

Biggest British fleet for years in Mediterranean

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Britain's naval presence in the eastern Mediterranean is now at its highest level for years.

The Royal Navy has the two light aircraft carriers Hermes and Illustrious, three frigates, a submarine and supporting supply ships there. The assault ship Fearless is also on the way to the area.

All are there as a result of plans laid long ago. Hermes, Illustrious, the frigates and submarine are taking part in the exercise "Display Determination", which is just ending, and will make subsequent port visits. Fearless is carrying cadets to the area.

Swedes invest for jobs

Stockholm (Reuters) - Sweden's Social Democratic Government yesterday launched a controversial plan to stabilise trade union run investment funds on its first stage through Parliament.

The presentation of the proposal, aimed at boosting investment to make jobs secure, coincides with the announcement of another work creation scheme seen as a radical departure from traditional Swedish welfare practice.

The plan to raise so-called

TWA to and through the USA

Every day to the USA - nobody does it cheaper.

No daily scheduled transatlantic airline gives you lower fares to the USA than TWA. And nobody offers you better service or more comfort for your fare.

See your TWA Main Agent.

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TWA



KGB splits with ministry on handling of spy cases

From Richard Owen, Moscow

A split has developed between the KGB (secret police) and the Soviet Foreign Ministry over how to respond to the expulsion of suspected Soviet spies from the West. Soviet sources said the KGB, headed by General Viktor Chebrikov, favoured "sharp retaliation" in most cases, while the Foreign Ministry under Mr Andrei Gromyko took a more cautious view.

Sources said Mr Gromyko had successfully dissuaded the security services from precipitous action on a number of occasions, arguing that the political consequences would rebound on the Soviet Union at a time when it was seeking to impress West European public opinion on the arms issue.

Soviet sources said the KGB had wanted to retaliate immediately for the Irish expulsions in order to "teach Britain a lesson", indirectly, and to warn Dublin not to "take orders from London" in security matters.

Sources said the most recent case involved two Soviet diplomats expelled from Ireland last month on charges of espionage. Mr Viktor Lipassov, second secretary at the Embassy in Dublin, was ordered out on September 14, together with his wife, Mr Gennadiy Salin, first secretary, was in Russia on home leave at the time and was told by the Irish authorities not to return. Mr Lipassov had taken a holiday cottage not far from the border with Northern Ireland, sources said. The British authorities had become alarmed at the Soviet diplomats' activities in a "sensitive area", including their contacts with IRA sympathisers. British and Irish security services had cooperated in investigating the case.

Foreign Ministry officials, however, had successfully argued that to expel two members of the small Irish

Embassy in Moscow would harm Soviet-Irish relations unnecessarily.

Similar caution was exercised earlier when President Mitterrand ordered the expulsion of 47 Soviet diplomats and officials from Paris last April. Despite a sustained anti-French campaign in the Soviet press, no French diplomats were ordered out of the Soviet Union, and the campaign died down. President Andropov later told an interviewer that the Kremlin had deliberately refrained from reacting in the interests of good Franco-Soviet relations.

Observers see this approach as part of a policy designed to divide Western Europe from the United States at a time when the Western alliance is under some strain over the question of arms reductions and relations with Moscow. The Soviet calculation is that European leaders take a more pragmatic and less ideological attitude toward Russia and respond favourably to Soviet restraint.

Three American diplomats have been expelled from Moscow so far this year, against a background of continuous anti-American propaganda barrages. By contrast Moscow has almost ignored expulsions of alleged Soviet agents from France, Switzerland, Sweden and Italy.

A series of "hit for tat" measures against Britain earlier this year petered out in the spring, and the Russians have not yet decided whether to retaliate against the expulsion from London of a Soviet trade official last week. The official, Mr Vasily Ionov, was the sixth Russian to be ordered out of Britain in a year.

Moscow has also yet to decide how - or whether - to react to the expulsion of two Soviet diplomats from Canada last month on charges of stealing high technology secrets.

Delay likely in launch of European Spacelab

Houston (AP) - A delay of between one and four months is expected in the launch of the space shuttle flight.

The latest mission, scheduled for October 28, was to launch the multi-million pound European Spacelab.

A Nasa official said the discovery of a near burn-through on a rocket nozzle used on the space shuttle mission in August had caused engineers to question the dependability of rocket nozzles that were to be used on the shuttle's Spacelab flight. "I don't think there's a chance that we'll fly in October", he said.

The Spacelab mission, which must be launched during the dark of the moon to enhance scientific experiments, could possibly be launched in late November. But this would mean that in the event of trouble during the launch the spacecraft would have to be landed in Spain in darkness. Such an emergency night landing is against mission standards of safety.

A launch earlier in the day would satisfy the safety requirements but would mean that Europe would be in darkness during some of the orbits of the Spacelab over the continent. The mission is designed to give daylight passes over Europe.

If Spacelab is delayed past November, the next launch opportunity, given the lighting constraints, would be in February.



Million mourn at angry Seoul funeral

A cavalcade of black-and-white bedecked ambulances carrying the bodies of the 17 South Korean victims of Sunday's terrorist explosion in Rangoon, on its way yesterday to the mass funeral service in Seoul.

The South Korean government is now saying that it has evidence linking the explosion which killed four senior ministers, and has formally asked Burma to sever relations with North Korea.

A million mourners packed into a Seoul plaza for the mass funeral of the South Korean victims. The US Defence Secretary, Mr Caspar Weinberger, and special envoys from more than 20 countries attended the memorial ceremonies on an island in the River Han.

Relatives wept and some collapsed as they filed past an enormous altar 80 yards long bedecked with yellow and white chrysanthemums.

Buddhist monks chanted prayers and clashed cymbals. A protestant minister, the Rev Yoo Ho-Joon, called on God to "drive out the murderous (North Korean) group from the earth."

Addressing the massed crowd, the Prime Minister Mr Kim Sang-Hyup again blamed North Korea for the bomb blast.

He charged the North Koreans with an act "not even worthy of beasts".

After the ceremony, an angry anti-North Korean rally took place in the plaza.

Greeks to reduce time-lag in courts

From Mario Modiano, Athens

A plan of judicial reforms aimed at reducing delays in the administration of justice from the present average of five years to less than 12 months, has been unveiled by Mr George-Alexander Mangakis, the Greek Justice Minister.

The plan was elaborated by a committee of jurists, judges and lawyers. It will be sent to the main Bar associations, judges, unions and law faculties for comments before it becomes law.

Under this plan journalists may refuse in court to name their sources, while police witnesses will no longer be able to invoke privileged information.

Other changes include the abolition of the obligatory oath on the New Testament. Witnesses will have the discretion of offering their word of honour instead. Jail sentences for debts are abolished unless proof is produced that the debtor had deliberately concealed assets.

To speed up the process of justice, the plan sets time limits for the successive stages of the judicial procedure, to ensure that a final ruling on each case is issued not later than 10 to 12 months from the day the original lawsuit was filed.

Witnesses, for instance, may be able to make their depositions before notaries, relieving court employees from an enormous work load.

Zia offers earlier date for Pakistan election

From Hassan Akhtar, Islamabad

President Ziaul-Haq was reported yesterday to have told Pakistani editors here that he was willing to advance the date of general elections by a year if political conditions were favourable. On August 12 he proposed elections and transfer of power by March 1985.

The proposed date and some features of General Zia's "Islamic political system" have been opposed in most political quarters. It is widely thought that current political drift, is taking the country dangerously close to chaos. Violent agitation in Sind over the past two months had resulted in heavy loss of life and damage to government and private property.

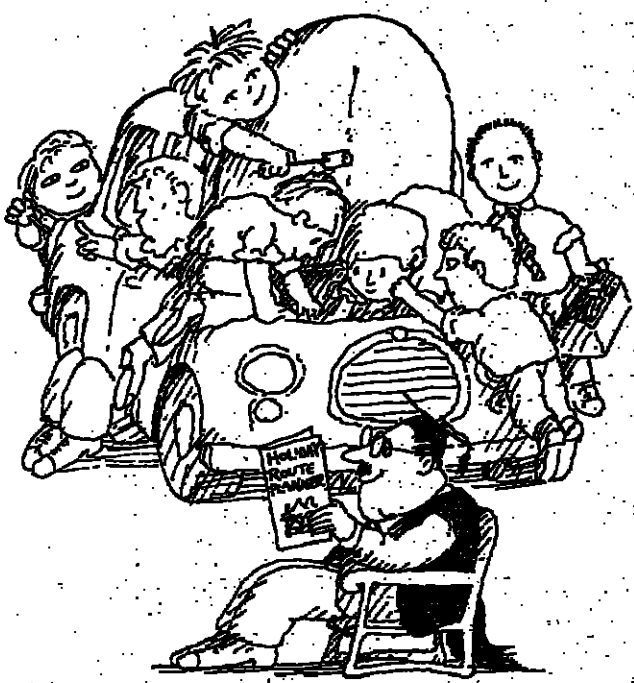
General Zia's briefing has come in midst of his political discussions with right-wing politicians. He has also named a controversial senior former editor as his publicity adviser, which indicates that the regime

is embarking on a fresh propaganda offensive.

General Zia told the editors that his August 12 announcement was not a divine declaration which could not be altered. But he appeared adamant in not holding talks with the leaders of the late Mr Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party.

The military ruler's meeting with the right-wing Jamiat Ulema Pakistan (JUP) on August 10 has also raised considerable controversy. Madame Shah Ahmad Moonsi, the JUP Leader, has accused the regime of misleading public by circulating its own version of the meeting.

It seems that a credibility gap exists between the regime and the politicians, and that the current political exercise is intended to weaken the minority alliance of the Movement for Restoration of Democracy



Getting technical

This autumn the Manpower Services Commission launched a major new scheme to put technical and vocational education back into schools, as an option for all teenagers from the age of 14. This week, THE TES takes a critical look at the way TVEI is working.

Also this week

John Cleeve says what's wrong with the curriculum. New approaches to maths teaching. Naomi Lewis: The Oxford Book of Dreams.

THE TIMES

Educational Supplement

On sale at your newsagent every week price 50p.

DO ADVERTISEMENTS SOMETIMES DISTORT THE TRUTH?

The short answer is yes, some do.

Every week hundreds of thousands of advertisements appear for the very first time.

Nearly all of them play fair with the people they are addressed to.

A handful do not. They misrepresent the products they are advertising.

As the Advertising Standards Authority it is our job to make sure these ads are identified, and stopped.

WHAT MAKES AN ADVERTISEMENT MISLEADING?

If a training course had turned a 7 stone weakling into Mr Universe the fact could be advertised because it can be proved.

But a promise to build 'you' into a 15 stone he-man would have us flexing our muscles because the promise could not always be kept.

'Makes you look younger' might be a reasonable claim for a cosmetic.

But pledging to 'take years off your life' would be an overclaim akin to a promise of eternal youth.

A garden centre's claim that its seedlings would produce 'a riot of colour in just a few days' might be quite contrary to the reality.

Such flowery prose would deserve to be pulled out by the roots.

If a brochure advertised a hotel as being 5 minutes walk to the beach, it must not require an Olympic athlete to do it in the time.

As for estate agents, if the phrase 'overlooking the river' translated to 'backing onto a ditch', there would be nothing for it but to show their ad the door.

HOW DO WE JUDGE THE ADS WE LOOK INTO?

Our yardstick is The British Code of Advertising Practice.

Its 500 rules give advertisers precise practical guidance on what they can and cannot say. The rules are also a gauge for media owners to assess the acceptability of any advertising they are asked to publish.

The Code covers magazines, newspapers, cinema commercials, brochures,

leaflets, posters, circulars posted to you, and now commercials on video tapes.

The ASA is not responsible for TV and radio advertising. Though the rules are very similar they are administered by

we or the public challenge to back up their claims with solid evidence.

If they cannot, or refuse to, we ask them either to amend the ads or withdraw them completely.

Nearly all agree without any further argument.

In any case we inform the publishers, who will not knowingly accept any ad which we have decided contravenes the Code.

If the advertiser refuses to withdraw the advertisement he will find it hard if not impossible to have it published.

WHOSE INTERESTS DO WE REALLY REFLECT?

The Advertising Standards Authority was not created by law and has no legal powers.

Not unnaturally some people are sceptical about its effectiveness.

In fact the Advertising Standards Authority was set up by the advertising business to make sure the system of self control worked in the public interest.

For this to be credible, the ASA has to be totally independent of the business.

Neither the chairman nor the majority of ASA council members is allowed to have any involvement in advertising.

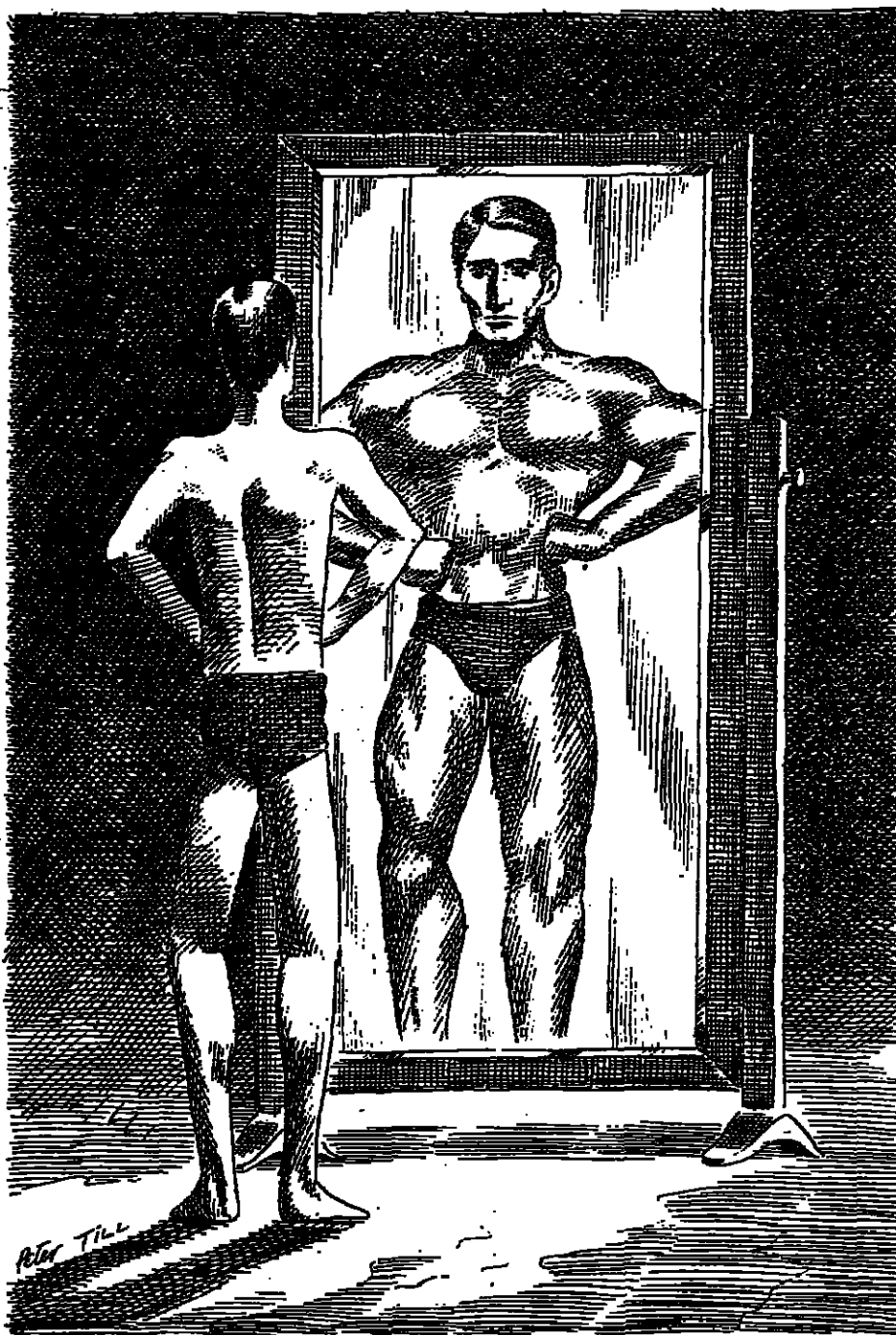
Though administrative costs are met by a levy on the business, no advertiser has any influence over ASA decisions.

Advertisers are aware it is as much in their own interests as it is in the public's that honesty should be seen to prevail.

If you would like to know more about the ASA and the rules it seeks to enforce you can write to us at the address below for an abridged copy of the Code.

The Advertising Standards Authority
If an advertisement is wrong, we're here to put it right.

ASA Ltd, Dept. T, Brook House, Torrington Place, London WC1E 7HN.



SPECTRUM

A Diamond is forever, says the advertising slogan, and those who deal in that most emotive of gemstones intend to ensure that it remains so. Thus Angola's Marxist regime, its guerrilla enemies and South African capitalists form a bizarre cartel

The dirt on the face of the diamond

By Richard Dowden

The Hercules thundered through the African night, 24,000ft above the endless scrub and bush. The pilot read a novel. The loadmaster made fresh coffee and sorted out by satellite link a house purchase with his wife in Texas. In a great white tank in the hold behind us was a 20,000-litre load of fuel.

Flying from Luanda, capital of Africa's most Marxist-Leninist state, the American-crewed Hercules flies a non-stop shuttle bringing oil, food and spare parts to Dundo, on the banks of one of the Congo tributaries and the heart of Angola's diamond mines. The diamonds themselves leave by other means. As the four huge turbo-prop engines changed note and we slid down towards Dundo, the pilot, a Vietnam war veteran, radioed for the airstrip lights to be switched on. "Sometimes at this time of year we can't see them for all the dust and smoke from the dry season bush fires," he said. "We just have to circle until we find them".

One week later, as it prepared to land at Dundo on a midnight trip, this plane vanished without a word. After a two-week search, pieces of wreckage were found about 70 miles away.

A week earlier I had stood in a panelled, plush-carpeted room in Charterhouse Street, London, looking at a lump of what seemed like yellowish ice in my hand.

"You are holding about a quarter of a million pounds' worth of diamond," said the gentleman from the Diamond Trading Company. Inside its unmarked fortress off Holborn Circus, De Beers, which owns the Diamond Trading Company and the Central Selling Organization, the only large wholesaler in the trade, keeps the biggest store of uncut diamonds in the world. As he said, the diamond has great power to corrupt. Unlike gold, which is heavy, or drugs, which can be snuffed out, diamonds can be easily hidden or swallowed. A fortune will not fill an envelope. European customs do not need to know where they come from. At Heathrow a carrier merely has to declare them for VAT.

On June 6 this year, *The Times* published a report saying that Angola was losing millions of pounds a year from diamond theft and smuggling, and that the scandal could bring down the MPLA government in Luanda. At the same time, Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader fighting a guerrilla war against the Angolan government, claimed to have a hand in the smuggling and also threatened to attack the mines. He said that British mine police were manning helicopter gunships to protect the workings. I assume that it was to counter some of

these tales that I was invited to visit the mines, the first Western journalist to do so since independence in 1975.

The paradoxes turned out to be endless. The inertial navigation systems of the Hercules gave our estimated time of arrival to the second, while below us in scattered mud hut villages the inhabitants still eked out an Iron Age existence.

The plane carried a United States flag, but Washington does not recognize the Angolan government. Sometimes at Luanda airport it has to line up with Russian Antonov troop-carriers in a queue for fuel.

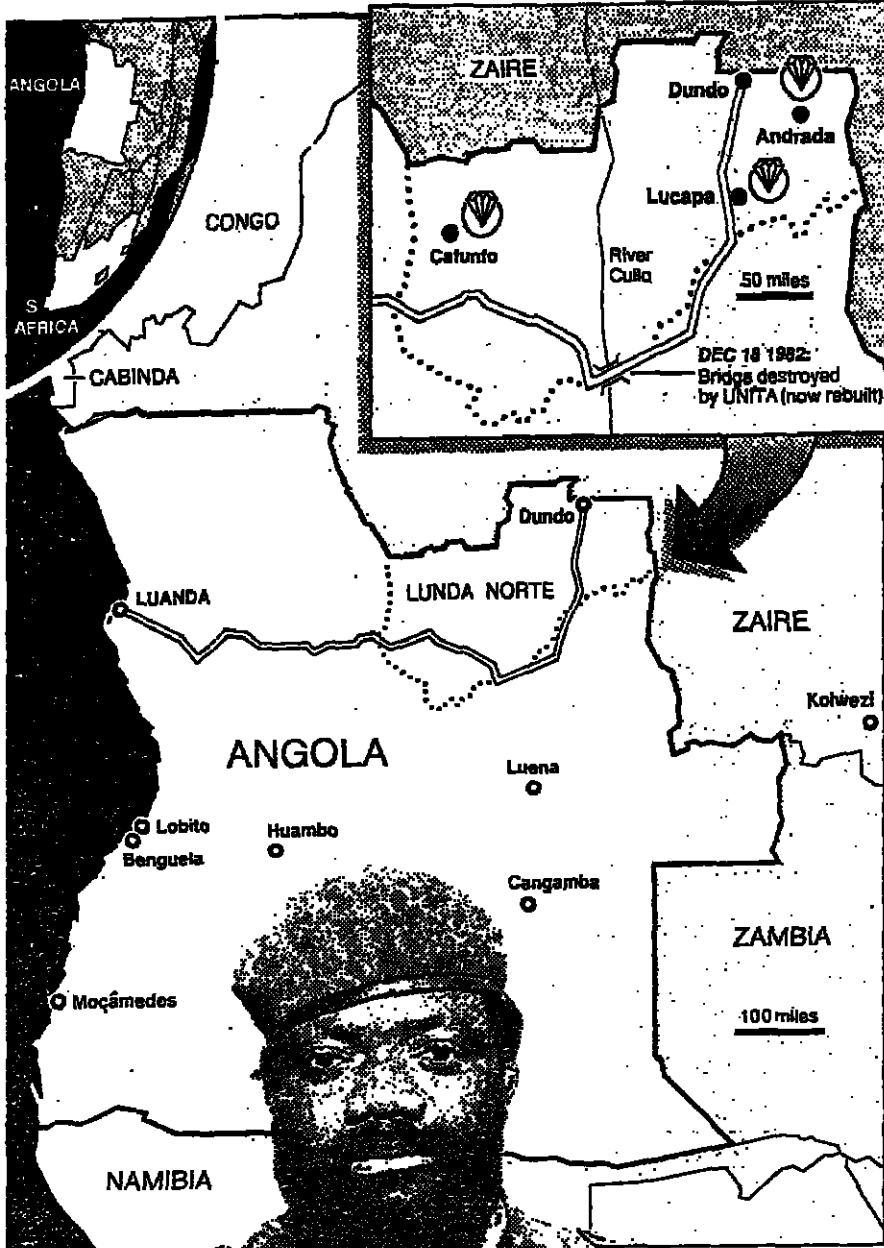
Transamerica, the airline that owned the plane, is known to have CIA links. The Angolan mines, nationalized by a government which is defended by Russian and Cuban forces, are now supervised by a front company for De Beers of South Africa, the epitome of international capitalism. Sir Philip Oppenheimer, chairman of the Diamond Trading Company, who is on the board of Diamang, the Angolan diamond company, visits Angola regularly, as do senior De Beers executives, who fly up from Johannesburg to inspect the operation. Meanwhile the country's army occupies part of southern Angola and launches bloody forays against it.

The best guard is for the chickens

Dundo, the centre of the multi-million pound mining operation, is an oasis in the bush. It is the capital of Lunda Norte province, which is about the size of Ireland and has a population of between 300,000 and 500,000. It is served by eight buses. No tarmac road reaches it.

Dundo itself is a sleepy, colonial-style administrative centre with spacious bungalows laid out amid well-kept lawns along tree-shaded avenues. The main administrative offices house a sophisticated computer, the director's house, which was occupied by the holidaying Minister of Industry when I was there, has a Limoges dinner service said to have been made for Napoleon.

The best-guarded buildings here house the chickens. The chicken farm has an electrically charged fence around it, of a voltage sufficient to kill a man. Around the sorting houses, where the diamonds are finally picked, there are security fences and armed guards, but around the power station, the most vulnerable part of the whole operation, the fence would barely keep out a fox. One rocket among the water-driven turbines would end Angola's diamond production.



At Dundo airport there was not a single military aircraft. The Angolans are clearly not taking Savimbi's boasts very seriously, although on December 18 last year a three-span bridge over the River Cuito, on the main road from Luanda to Dundo, was blown up and lorries on that route are continually being attacked by rocket fire.

Unita's claims have caused some anxiety, though. Early on the morning of April 6 this year Peter Heap, manager of the Lucapa mine, 50 miles south of Dundo, was telephoned by a colleague further up the road. The BBC World Service had just announced that Unita had claimed the capture of Lucapa.

"I went and looked out of the window. Everything seemed quite as I went off to work as usual," said Heap, a 35-year-old Yorkshireman who lives there with his wife and two small children. "A Unita attack is a worry but not a preoccupation".

The diamonds and the 700 or so expatriates (including 120 Britons) who work on the mines may, however, be better protected than at first appears. On November 17 last year employees of a shadowy British firm called Defence Systems International arrived at the mines, ostensibly to help to stop smuggling. But the men, who are still there, have military backgrounds, and many of them are ex-SAS. One told me he had been recruited privately and had no experience of preventive security operations. Like all expatriates, he denied having any access to weapons.

An attack from across the Zaire border is a much greater worry. The first town across the border is Kolwezi, where in 1977 and 1978 mine workers were attacked and killed by Zairean exiles who had been living in Angola.

Where De Beers has been solely concerned to stop smuggling, it has employed tough and dramatic methods - and, as in the case of Fred Kamit, a Lebanese who had been the godfather and bandit chief of the smugglers' trail that took diamonds from Sierra Leone to Liberia, was hired by De Beers in 1956 to end the smuggling. He did this by ambushing the caravans. Later he fell out with De Beers, tried to hijack an aircraft to extort money from them, and has claimed responsibility for the recent bomb attacks aimed at Oppenheimer interests in London.

The diamond trade is not an easy one to investigate. I asked the Department of Trade for a briefing about it. Their representative phoned back to say it was a one-company business and that the company in question, De Beers, demanded that all the information it gave the department should be held in confidence. The spokesman conceded that information on no other commodity was suppressed at the request of a private company.

She said she had phoned De Beers to ask whether it could help me, but gathered from the company that I had already been in touch. "I had. Charming and courteous it was, but De Beers keep the secrets of the diamond trade as well protected as the diamonds."

The only loser in the diamond trade seems to be the lovelorn sucker who buys an engagement ring. The price of diamonds is controlled by De Beers. It owns many of the chief gem mines, makes exclusive contracts with the owners of the other mines and buys up whatever else appears on the open market. Much of it goes into the stockpile with which it manipulates the market. "Producer cooperative" is the phrase De Beers itself uses to describe the business, but it does not quite express the control it enjoys over the trade. Handling more than 80 per cent of all uncut gems it exerts enormous influence over the cutters and dealers. De Beers can prevent their buying elsewhere by threatening to withhold their regular supply, and discourage a second-hand trade so that diamonds do not keep their value.

No other commodity has ever been so tightly controlled by one man. De Beers is part of the Anglo American and Consolidated Goldfields groups, all sections of which are controlled by Harry Oppenheimer, the self-effacing, liberal monarch of the transnational, South African-based mineral empire.

Not even giants such as the Soviet Union or Zaire have managed to break the De Beers' cartel. Nor do they choose to leave it. It would not benefit any diamond producer to allow the diamond to find its own production or price levels in the market place. Angola is a new-born state ravaged by war and its leaders know little of the diamond world. It is at the mercy of De Beers.

Diamonds were first discovered in Angola in 1912. They are among the finest gems in the world. The Portuguese mined them until 1975, when they were producing more than two million carats a year. In the chaos that followed independence and the nationalization of the private Portuguese holding, production dropped to less than half a million carats in 1977. Although the Government now owns 77.21 per cent of the shares in the diamond company, and De Beers owns only 1.6 per cent, Angola has been forced to turn to De Beers not only to sell its diamonds but also to mine them.

Mining and Technical Services, another De Beers company, is incorporated in Liechtenstein but its London office backs on to the De Beers complex at Holborn Circus. It was formed in the early 1960s to deal with black African countries for whom a direct relationship with a South African company was politically out of the question. Angola, where the company has operated since 1977, is its biggest and most sensitive operation.

The Portuguese mined the river beds but now De Beers insists that the Angolan company mines the alluvial terraces. River beds such as the one at Dundo, the furthest west of all the mines, offer dramatic but unpredictable results. The river has been diverted by a great dam and the ravine excavated. At the bottom the heavy diamonds, battered and sifted by aeons of annual floods, have gathered into nooks where they can be found by the score. At times there is one Angolan



Sir Philip Oppenheimer, a self-effacing liberal monarch in control of a transnational mineral empire

guard, armed with a Russian-made Klashnikov rifle, for each Angolan worker. One worker had been shot a few days before I arrived. It was not clear that he had been smuggling.

Angola does have a serious smuggling problem. According to Sr Alberto Bento Ribeiro, the Minister of Industry, Angola has lost \$100m of diamond revenue in the past 18 months through smuggling, possibly one third of total production. Diamang, he said, will make no profit this year - an extraordinary situation for a diamond producer.

As we drove south by Land Cruiser along the straight red-dirt road which rolls over the hills to Lucapa, we passed a new motor-cycle weaving unsteadily in the other direction. Des Jenkin, the security adviser with MATS, wrinkled his nose. "A sure sign of smuggling," he said. "The workers will swap a diamond for a new pair of shoes. A motor bike is quite a good price."

In the past nine months the



The mining heartland of Angola and Jonas Savimbi, leader of the Unita guerrillas, (left) who claims a hand in the diamond smuggling. Above, a fistful of diamonds. Workers will readily swap a diamond for a new pair of shoes. A motor bike is a fair price.

Angolans have curbed the flow from the sorting houses. Seventy members of the Department of Diamond Security (DSD) have been on security courses at Brockton Hall in Hertfordshire.

The DSD is responsible to the Ministry of Internal Security and it is led in Luanda province by a short, tough, arrogant man called Rodriguez, who looks as though he was born with an automatic pistol at his belt. While I was interviewing the local governor in his own house, Rodriguez wandered in without knocking and took over the answers. He told me that more than 400 people had been arrested for smuggling this year and that some trials had already taken place. He clearly does not trust the foreign workers.

'We don't ask too many questions'

Some of the men arrested have been Portuguese or Angolan airline pilots, and so far that is the limit of the trail. Some observers say that senior party officials have been caught smuggling and the President Eduardo dos Santos has ordered a cover-up. There is no evidence that this is so. The MPLA government might survive, such a scandal even if it was true. Senior party officials have been ruthlessly purged for far less grave offences.

Once the diamonds have left Angola their passage is easy. No European countries need to know their source. Most of them find their way via Lisbon to the famous Pelikanstrasse in Antwerp, the centre of Europe's diamond cutting trade. Here De Beers representatives buy them up uncut and at every Diamang board meeting De Beers representatives tell the Angolans what has been bought on the open market. They can even tell them which mine they have come from.

De Beers says it can do nothing about the smuggling from the buying end. "We don't ask too many questions," said its spokesman. "We simply tell them to tighten up their security and suggest how they might do it."

Angolan officials say that De Beers buy smuggled diamonds more cheaply than contract ones but De Beers denies this and points out that smuggled diamonds come sixth-hand and each wants a rake off. One former De Beers employee said that De Beers was primarily interested in control, the short-term price was secondary to that. He also suggested that the dealers in smuggled diamonds were far better value than Angola's and would get a better price.

This may prove to be Angola's long-term problem rather than smuggling. Diamond prices are fixed by a De Beers' sample parcel against which uncut stones are sorted and priced. Every stone over 14 carats is individually negotiated. Sorting and valuing is a skill which can be learnt only by years of experience of diamonds and De Beers methods. Angola has to use an agent to do this vital job at present but is having 12 Angolans trained in the basic techniques. Predictably the training is being conducted by De Beers.

The final say over the value of a diamond lies with De Beers, and since the difference between one category and another may be as much as \$30, an overall undervaluation can result in a loss of thousands of dollars for the producer. De Beers make sure that the producer cannot find out the price at which they sell the diamonds to the dealers, so that they cannot learn by experience.

A South African company has a puppet-master's control over Angola's second largest foreign exchange earner. Angola spends more than half at foreign exchange fighting a war against Unita, the South African backed rebel group, and against South Africa itself which seems determined to bring down the Luanda government. No wonder there is paranoia in Angola.

moreover... Miles Kington

Rouge et noir all round

My daughter opened the current *Tailer* yesterday and flew into a rage. Her wrath was caused by a clothes feature based on the supposed Russian look, with lots of reds and blacks splashed around. I couldn't see anything to object to in it.

"I'm not objecting to the idea," she said. "It's just that my friend Polly and I have been wearing reds and blacks for the last ten months, and now they come along and pretend it was their idea."

There is something peculiarly painful about being ahead of a trend. All those people who had been shouting the praises of ragtime from the rooftops, unheeded, must have experienced very bitter-sweet emotions when Joshua Rifkin came along and made Scott Joplin famous overnight. My son, who is experimenting with his personal appearance at an age when I didn't even know I had one, stared open-mouthed the other day at a TV film of the Arsenal team of 1934.

"What amazingly brilliant haircuts," he said. "They were 50 years ahead of their time."

Of course, Arsenal didn't know that at the time. What must be equally painful is trying to set a trend and not seeing it take off. I was talking to a man last year who works for IDV and couldn't understand why I & B whisky, a market leader in the States, hadn't really taken off here. He asked me what Scotch I drank and I told him it was Famous Grouse.

"But why is it Famous Grouse?"

"Well," I said lamely, "quite a lot of my friends mentioned it to me, and said it was the Scotch, so I thought I'd try it."

"Ah, the word of mouth method!" he cried. "That's the way to do it. But how did they do it? Ah, the cunning devils."

It's true. The word of mouth thing does work. People occasionally whisper to me that the malt whisky is the Macallan, which I became convinced of, till people started whispering to me that Cardhu was the malt whisky. I even went out and bought a bottle of Cardhu, and indeed it was very good; my children, temporarily abandoning clothes and haircuts, tested it and urged me to buy some more. But in all these cases I was behind a trend already. What I'd like to be, fleetingly and unworthily, is just ahead of a trend.

I thought I was last week when I encountered Chabertay Nouveau, an interesting red wine from Burgundy which can get here six weeks before Beaujolais Nouveau and may well make inroads into it. But before I could put pen to paper it was already being written about, so it is no good to me as a trend. I am already four or five days behind.

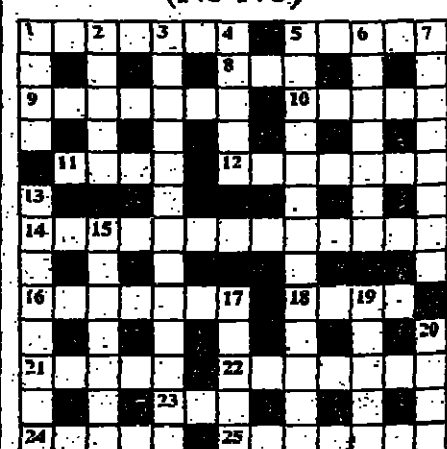
And then it suddenly occurred to me that there is one trend I am ahead of and will always be ahead of. Pisco. Pisco is a Peruvian spirit, colourless and strong, which I encountered in Peru three years ago in the shape of pisco sc-r, a sort of cocktail made from frothed egg white, lime juice, sugar, pisco and a touch of I think cinnamon. It is lethal and lovely, and though well known to every visitor to Peru, totally unknown over here.

This is because the Peruvians have a genius for developing things and not letting the rest of the world know about it. It is as if, having given us the potato, Peru lay back exhausted and thought its world role was finished.

Last Saturday I went as a tourist to the newly revamped Harrods Food Halls, and there asked in the wine department for a bottle of pisco. They had a tremendously ugly black bottle, carved in the shape of an inca image, and made in Italy. "But we are expecting stocks from South America soon of Chilean pisco," the man said.

Chilean pisco! What an outrage. It is like boasting of English whisky or French stout. The Chileans and the Peruvians have never got on very well, being next door neighbours, and to make it worse the Chileans have always been a touch more enterprising, but when it comes to marketing a Peruvian drink... Still, it solves my problem. I am ahead of the Peruvian pisco trend and if Peru keeps up its present marketing strategy, I always will be. How nice to be able to plug an unavailable drink, and thus be innocent of all PR pressure.

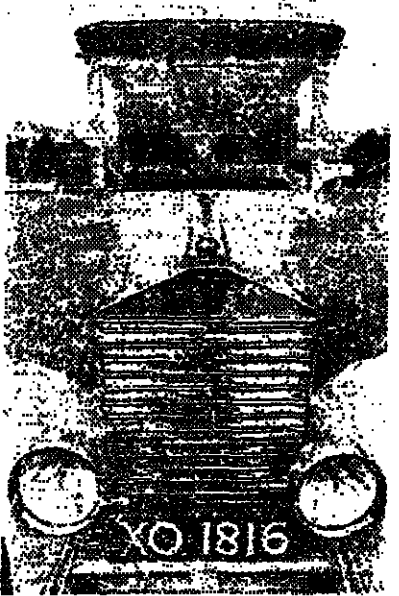
CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 175)



- ACROSS: 1 Brawl (5,2) 2 City of depravity (9) 3 Japanese sash (3) 4 Ancient paper (7) 5 Boundary (5) 6 Round-topped cap (4) 7 Voter (7) 8 Unusually word use (13) 9 Divide into three (7) 10 Aromatic Indian plant (4) 11 Short-sleeved (5) 12 Battering (7) 13 Geographical drawing (3) 14 Dawn (5) 15 Frog larva (7)
- DOWN: 1 Bishop of Rome (4) 2 Weir flow (3) 3 Storm lantern (9,4) 4 Sheriff's aides (5) 5 Well spoken (6,7) 6 Popular (7) 7 Adultery (8) 8 Magistrates (8) 9 Shine by reflexion (7) 10 One-horned animal (5) 11 Giant (8)
- SOLUTION TO No 174: ACROSS: 1 Sushu 2 Akimbo 3 Tel 4 Bazaar 5 Tarrif 6 Gate 7 Martine 8 Swine 17 Junk food 19 Hack 21 Siesta 23 Equity 24 Cos 25 Remedy 26 Scent. DOWN: 2 Tars 3 Space walk 4 Strumbe 5 Altar 6 IVR 7 Buffoon 13 Townhouse 15 Abusive 16 Endless 18 Oracy 20 Catch 22 Sue

THE TIMES Tomorrow

START THE WEEK WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES



- A collector's dream - the best car in the world
- Travel: Journey of a Lifetime on safari
- Keith Waterhouse on the best of Channel 5
- Sport: The South African Grand Prix and Ryder Cup golf from Florida

Plus

News from home and abroad; Drink on beer; Eating Out around the Barbican; Collecting ephemera; Values - Christmas shopping across the Channel; Videos of the month; what's happening in the arts; a selected guide to the coming week's events.



Alain Prost 1983 Grand Prix leader

FRIDAY PAGE

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Preventing cot deaths



The deaths of four month old Samantha and Gabrielle Connolly last weekend bring home once again the horrors of cot death.

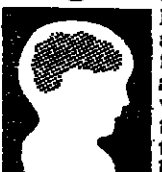
In spite of a vast amount of research doctors still do not know why the victims die. They can suspect only breathing difficulties or digestion problems.

At Sheffield Children's Hospital and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, however, doctors have taken a different approach for ten years now. Instead of seeking a cause for cot deaths they are trying to prevent them.

Since 1973 the doctors assessing ways of spotting children in danger have found that babies born to young mothers who already have several children are most at risk. The extra attention these babies have received in Sheffield over the years has prevented at least 50 cot deaths in the city, they estimate.

Now doctors in other parts of the country are trying out the system.

Danger bug



Doctors in Britain and America are facing a tough task as they try to find a vaccine for one of the oldest viruses in the world cytomegalovirus (CMV) is by no means a killer bug, but is extremely common. People with a CMV infection hardly ever know they've got it.

But it is now known that problems can arise when pregnant women pick up CMV. In around one in 20 the virus passes over the placenta and causes brain damage to the foetus.

According to Dr Paul Griffiths, CMV expert and senior lecturer in virology at the Royal Free Hospital in London, in the UK alone CMV is responsible for around 400 mentally handicapped babies a year - this is more than German measles.

The difficulty is that CMV, like other viruses in the herpes group to which it belongs, has learned to survive in the body even when the immune system has produced antibodies. Dr Griffiths and other workers are trying to find out if these antibodies can at least stop CMV from getting across the placenta.

Light rash



If you have a skin condition that makes you extremely sensitive to light and you are due for an operation don't forget to mention this to your hospital doctors. A warning to surgeons to look out for people who are sensitive to operating lights has come from doctors in Liverpool.

A healthy man of 19 was admitted to the Walton Hospital for a routine hernia repair. Just five minutes into the operation, however, surgeons noticed a nasty rash on his light-exposed skin. The quick-thinking team remembered that the patient had a rare skin condition which meant he had to keep out of the sun. They switched off the lights, finished the operation in daylight and within three hours the young man's skin was back to normal.

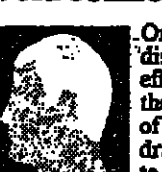
Euthanasia issue



Euthanasia for handicapped children is possibly the most contentious ethical issue of the last couple of years. Many dilemmas raised by the medical and legal professions continue to reverberate in general discussions.

A challenging report of the views of 78 parents of Down's Syndrome children has appeared in the most recent issue of the *Journal of Medical Ethics*. The parents, who clearly have much more direct experience of the consequences of present practice than any professional, were questioned on their opinions on abortion for handicapped fetuses as well as euthanasia. For compassionate reasons the difference between active and passive euthanasia were not pressed. Most of the parents were in favour of abortion for handicapped fetuses, though the picture was much more complicated for euthanasia. Parents were more likely to consider acceptable euthanasia for severely handicapped babies if they were from prosperous households than those parents in lower social classes. But if the handicapped was Down's there was no such clear-cut divide.

Cold comfort



One of the most distressing side effects of anti-cancer therapy is rapid loss of hair. Cytotoxic drugs are intended to destroy cancer cells but, as well as wiping out the baddies, because their action is indiscriminate they knock out many other active cells - including hair follicles.

Over the last two years some patients have been spared the distress by wearing a "cold cap" while the drugs are injected. The patient's hair is usually dampened to improve conduction and the cap is put in place about 20 minutes before the injection until about 30 minutes after. This chills the scalp so the blood supply to the hair follicles is temporarily suspended while the drug is "fixed" in other parts of the body.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

SAS Captain John Hamilton died heroically in the Falklands. His wife recalls the happy times - and the sad ones



Victoria Hamilton: "People said it was a good thing he was dead as he was just a trained killer"

The big softie who fought to the last

A half smile flickers across the face of Victoria Hamilton as she sorts through the few precious photographs of her life with Captain John Hamilton, MC of the Special Air Service, who died a hero in the last days of the Falklands war. "We both knew he was going to die, that he wasn't coming back", she says.

"John just would not let go of my hand when it was time finally to go. He said he might be going to war and might not be coming back, and 'Thank you for being such a super wife'. He said 'I can go knowing you're behind me all the way'. His men had to say 'Come on Boss' to get him to let go. Then they drove away."

Captain Hamilton was concerned about the effect his career in the SAS had on his wife: "He only joined knowing I would be happy letting him go and I realized all the dangers but I also know how much he enjoyed it. John could appreciate that in some ways being in the SAS is a very selfish thing. But he cancelled once and was so miserable."

"After he was killed it upset me very much that people came up to me and said it was a good thing he was dead as he was just a trained killer. I even stopped having my hair done. When people find out your husband is in the SAS they think you're not human."

A favourite photograph shows her next to a Valentine bouquet sent while he was climbing Mount Kenya and she was staying with her diplomat parents in Trinidad. Members of Hamilton's SAS mountain troop, all now dead, clung in a mountainous landscape. Had they survived the Falklands they would have attempted to climb Everest next year. Hamilton, she says, was never happier than when his yellow Renault 4 was loaded with climbing gear heading for an exacting mountain.

"But he was a big softie. He liked nothing better than curling up in front of the television with his sweetie jar, me and his English setter Marcus. He always found things funny wherever he was, and John was the giggliest person I have ever known."

"Sometimes he would come home

in fits of laughter after something funny happened at work. He would creep into the kitchen pretending to be the Pink Panther after food, but always letting me know he was there."

Born in Harrogate, Yorkshire, Hamilton was educated at the Royal Masonic Schools: motto *Aude, Vide, Tace* - Hear, See and Be Silent. Close friends at school were surprised he had become an SAS man. They knew a very quiet boy who wanted to become a doctor but whose A levels were not good enough.

After a year off, he finally drifted into the Green Howards, mostly because of his fascination with the lonely sport of climbing. "He used to try to get me climbing mountains", says his wife. "If I am killed on a mountain, he would say, 'I want you to know why I had to do it'. One day the only way I could get him to come down was to take my boots off and throw them down the mountain. Then he had to carry me."

I owe it to him to carry on. I don't want to let him down

They met in Berlin at a Green Howards curry lunch while Victoria's father was a diplomat there: "Our honeymoon was in Austria, climbing of course. He was a terribly physical person. He used to make his men at the Green Howards run with sand-weighted belts and when he left they gave him one for his dog Marcus." Not surprisingly Marcus has remained at the SAS barracks in Hereford; probably the only place on earth he can get the exercise he is used to.

Hamilton regarded his military career very seriously and it took him to Cyprus, South Armagh, Belize and even the French Commando School at Trier: "But he never broke a bone, he was so careful", his widow says.

He is unique in being the first of more than 30 SAS troopers to die a "soldier's death". Many think he



Above: Captain Hamilton, and right, his grave in the Falklands. He was buried by the islanders



should have got the VC, but viewed at a distance it was a rather perplexing "sacrifice", which is how even official reports refer to it.

A senior Falklands official, who had close contact with the SAS, said that the Argentines who surrounded the two men waited for one of them to go to the latrine before shooting Hamilton in the back in the hills near Port Howard. "There is some truth in that story", said Mr Robin Lee, of Port Howard, who helped bury Hamilton. "It was the reason why the radio was not being manned."

"We discovered that there were four SAS, two that went to observe the Argies and two who stayed back. That was Hamilton and a Fijian sergeant. They were surrounded and taken by surprise. The Argies told us later of how John fought to the last."

"He was medically minded and probably realized he was not going to come through", said Victoria. "The only possible way out would have been the water. I have seen it; it was very cold and they wouldn't have survived." So in the knowledge of almost certain death he fought on. Victoria has a picture of this other Hamilton, a stern warrior with an automatic rifle.

"I worry about the time between when he was shot in the back and the shot that killed him. Did he worry about me and the dog before he was killed? I hope not. He did not go out there to be killed, but if he had to die he would have preferred to die properly as he did, fighting the enemy", she says.

"To go down in history as one of the best officers to wear the SAS

badge would have meant so much to him. His life and death have a meaning. We loved each other so much it does not matter if that was what he wanted." But there is an unspoken tension between being proud of her husband "dying well" and wondering why he chose to die at all.

In his personal diary Hamilton often wrote a few words of love for his wife. He also carefully listed the numbers and types of aircraft he blew to pieces on Pebble Island. But there is no clue as to what he felt.

The colonel who commanded the Argentine troops later said of him: "He is without doubt the most courageous man I have ever seen", and asked for a flag to bury him. The truculent locals wouldn't give him one and later reburied Hamilton themselves.

The Argentines gave back Hamilton's belongings. "It all came with a long list in Spanish", said Victoria. "They even sent a picture of us taken on Hildy Moor which was in a plastic wallet with some of my hair. They were not really meant to carry rings and things. They even gave back his watch."

"When the really dreadful helicopter crash occurred at sea I went to see other wives. In a way I prepared me for what happened. One has to accept people being killed. John and I sat down and talked about what I would do if he were killed doing so and so. You have to, but you never really know what will do. For six months I was numb. But John died so bravely I owe it to him to carry on. I don't want to let him down."

Paul Pickering

My sour taste of Honey

COMMENT

Carol Sarler

For less than the entire mass of British womanhood. So why do IPC not want to? There are obviously a lot of complex areas one could explore to answer this, but in the space available here, there's one particularly simple one I'd like to look at, and to do with the people at the top. Among the layers and layers of executives above the editorial level of the huge women's magazine group, only one has ever worked even a single day as a journalist. The rest are recruited from marketing/promotions/finance/advertising and other divisions, and approach the selling of



"A lot of the men didn't like me or what I stood for"

magazines as no different from the selling of cat food. And even more telling, among those layers and layers of top people whose whole business is publishing for women, only two are women. The rest are men operating in a world of men. The other magazines, as we all know, is advertising. The people who decide whether or not to take a page of advertising are the media directors of advertising agencies - and there is not one single woman media director in any of the main agencies.

Thus we find ourselves in the ludicrous position of having newswomen's shelves full of women's magazines putting forward images and ideals of women as determined and dreamt up by men.

Some months ago, I put my male dominated theory to the managing director of the National Magazine Company (*Cosmo, She, Good Housekeeping*) and asked him how, as someone who has never been a journalist or a woman, he feels competent to hold down his job. His reply was that he can't play the piano, but that doesn't mean he can't tell when it's well played.

A lot of the men I'm talking about didn't like me or what I stood for - and that personal feeling constantly threatens professional judgment. This collective "He" - the body of publishing and advertising executives - is a very conservative kind of male. He likes and understands his older women as the cosy creatures of *Women's Realm* or *Women's Weekly*; he enjoys his younger women as the bushy-tailed and empty-headed teenage brats as personified in *Look Now*. These, then, are the magazines - and the editors to whom he lends his support.

One senior IPC executive is on record as saying he "wouldn't allow" his 20-year-old daughter to read my version of *Honey*. Leaving aside the Victorian notion that fathers can still have control over their adult offspring, how can he remove his own set of ideals for his daughter from his decision whether to publish or not? And whose problem is it? His, mine - or his daughter's? In the end, of course, probably his daughter's. For myself, I suppose I'm destined to another hundred consecutive parties where one of these bright, thinking, advancing young women will come up to me and say sorry, they don't read women's magazines - they all seem to be meant for someone else.

TALKBACK

Quel gall

odd word missing from crosswords which had stymied my own children (example: invective) and pointed out the tautology of my comparing Kensington Church Walk to a small village since "a village is by definition small". Marc and our Jack Russell, Pip, became bosom buddies, with Marc surreptitiously

slipping bits of food under the table at meals.

The increasingly undisciplined terror finally demonstrated his contempt for the rest of us by urinating on the new cream linen dining room curtains. We sentenced him to several hours solitary in the garden, only to find Marc letting him in after about ten minutes. "No, no Marc," I cried, "we are cross with him." He seemed to genuinely believe the logic of his him. He seemed genuinely to believe the logic of his reply: "You are cross with him - I am not."

From Dina Wulfsohn, 12, Campden Grove, London

May I add to Helen Mason's foreign exchange stories? (Wednesday Page, September 28). Since our French visit, not only has the family's English improved, but the dog is enjoying a new lease of life.

We knew that Marc was 12 years old and had been taking English for only two terms, but not that he had skipped a year, was top of his form and his idea of a fun day was seven hours of chess.

He readily supplied the

QUALITY USED CARS Brakes.	QUALITY USED CARS Indicators.	QUALITY USED CARS Engine oil.	QUALITY USED CARS Gearbox oil.	QUALITY USED CARS Rear axle oil.	QUALITY USED CARS Cooling water.	QUALITY USED CARS Suspension.
QUALITY USED CARS Steering.	QUALITY USED CARS Brake fluid.	QUALITY USED CARS Clutch fluid.	QUALITY USED CARS Battery acid.	QUALITY USED CARS Main beam/dip.	QUALITY USED CARS Parking lights.	QUALITY USED CARS Side lights.
QUALITY USED CARS Stop lights.	QUALITY USED CARS Reversing lights.	QUALITY USED CARS Number plate lights.	QUALITY USED CARS Defrosting agent.	QUALITY USED CARS Interior lights.	QUALITY USED CARS Heater motor.	QUALITY USED CARS Clock.
QUALITY USED CARS Cigarette lighter.	QUALITY USED CARS Screen wiper/washer.	QUALITY USED CARS Horns.	QUALITY USED CARS Hazard warning.	QUALITY USED CARS Heated rear screen.	QUALITY USED CARS Radio/casserial.	QUALITY USED CARS Ignition.
QUALITY USED CARS Choke.	QUALITY USED CARS Handbrake.	QUALITY USED CARS Footbrake.	QUALITY USED CARS Steering lock.	QUALITY USED CARS Bonnet catch.	QUALITY USED CARS Keys.	QUALITY USED CARS Door stops.
QUALITY USED CARS Dash gauges.	QUALITY USED CARS Boot lock.	QUALITY USED CARS Heater vent flaps.	QUALITY USED CARS Seat adjusters.	QUALITY USED CARS Locks.	QUALITY USED CARS Clutch.	QUALITY USED CARS Windows.
QUALITY USED CARS Tyres.	QUALITY USED CARS Tyre pressures.	QUALITY USED CARS Wheels.	QUALITY USED CARS Spark plugs.	QUALITY USED CARS Idling speed.	QUALITY USED CARS Dwell angle.	QUALITY USED CARS Door hinges.
QUALITY USED CARS Grease nipples.	QUALITY USED CARS Chrome.	QUALITY USED CARS Interior.	QUALITY USED CARS Paintwork.	QUALITY USED CARS Owner literature.	QUALITY USED CARS Seat belts.	QUALITY USED CARS Rear axle.

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Law Report October 14 1983 House of Lords

Jury can convict of lesser offence in bodily harm cases

Regina v Wilson (Clarence)
Regina v Jenkins (E.J.)
Regina v Jenkins (R.P.)

Before Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Elwyn-Jones, Lord Edmund-Davies, Lord Roskill and Lord Brightman
[Speeches delivered October 13]

On a charge of inflicting grievous bodily harm contrary to section 20 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861 it was open to a jury to return a verdict of not guilty as charged but guilty of occasioning actual bodily harm (contrary to section 47 of the 1861 Act).

Further, on a charge of burglary contrary to section 9(1)(b) of the Theft Act 1968 the particulars of the offence being that the accused having entered a building as trespasser, it was open to a jury to return a verdict of not guilty as charged but guilty of assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

The House of Lords unanimously so held in allowing two appeals by prosecutors. One appeal was against the decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Watkins, Mr Justice Cantley and Mr Justice Hirst), who had quashed the conviction of Clarence Wilson (*The Times* February 7) at Kingston upon Thames Crown Court (Judge Rubin) the jury having been directed that on a charge against him under section 20 they could convict of the alternative assault offence.

The second appeal was against the decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Purchas, Mr Justice Staughton) (*The Times* February 25) quashing the convictions of Edward John Jenkins and Ronald Patrick Jenkins at Canterbury Crown Court (Mr Recorder Michael Lewis QC) of the assault offence as an alternative to the burglary charge.

Both appeals involved considering the true construction of section

6(3) of the Criminal Law Act 1967, which provides: "Where, on a person's trial... the jury find him not guilty of the offence specifically charged in the indictment but the allegations in the indictment amount to or include (expressly or by implication) an allegation of another offence... the jury may find him guilty of that other offence..."

Section 20 of the 1861 Act provides: "Whoever shall unlawfully and maliciously wound or inflict any grievous bodily harm upon any other person... shall be guilty... of an offence..."

Section 47 provides: "Whoever shall be convicted... of any assault occasioning actual bodily harm shall be liable..."

Section 9 of the 1968 Act provides: "(1) A person is guilty of burglary if... (a) he enters any building as a trespasser with intent to commit any... offence... (2)... of inflicting on any person therein any grievous bodily harm..."

Mr Michael Hill, QC and Mr Derek Zeidan for the Crown in the Wilson appeal; Mr Anthony Scrivener, QC and Mr David Guy for Wilson; Mr Michael Hill, QC and Mr Anthony Webb for the Crown in the Jenkins appeal; Mr David Guy and Mr Gregory Stone for the Jenkins.

LORD ROSKILL, with whose speech all their Lordships agreed, said that before 1967 the view was widely held that at common law on a charge under section 20 of the 1861 Act a defendant might be convicted of at least common assault.

In *R v Lillis* ([1973] 2 Q B 236) a five-judge Court of Appeal stated: "The object of section 6(3) of the 1967 Act was to provide a general rule continuing and combining the rules of common law and the provisions of most of the statutes which enabled alternative verdicts

to be returned in specific cases or types of cases." His Lordship accepted that statement as correct. Although *Lillis* was correctly decided, it applied *R v Springfield* ([1969] 3 Cr App R 608), and the question was open whether *Springfield* was correctly decided.

In *Springfield* Lord Justice Sachs, who gave the judgment, said that the question arose, where an indictment charged a major offence without setting out any particulars of the matters relied on, what was the correct test for ascertaining whether it contained allegations which expressly or impliedly included an allegation of a lesser offence and that the test was to see whether it was a "necessary step towards establishing the major offence to prove the commission of the lesser offence; in other words, is the lesser offence an essential ingredient of the major one?"

"Major offences" and "lesser offences" nowhere appeared in section 6(3) which said nothing about it being "a necessary step towards establishing the 'major offence' to prove the commission of the lesser offence, so that the so-called lesser offence had to be an 'essential ingredient' of the major offence."

Four possibilities were envisaged by section 6(3). First, the allegation in the indictment expressly amounted to an allegation of another offence. Second, the allegation in the indictment impliedly amounted to an allegation of another offence. Third, the allegation in the indictment expressly included an allegation of another offence. Fourth, the allegation in the indictment impliedly included an allegation of another offence.

If any one of those four requirements was fulfilled, then the accused might be found guilty of that other offence. There was a clear antithesis in

section 6(3) between "amount to" and "include"; the word "or" which joined those two words was clearly disjunctive and must not be ignored. If either limb of the phrase was satisfied, then the stated consequences would follow.

Lord Justice Sachs in *Springfield* had asked the right question but he applied the wrong test in order to answer it.

The allegation of "inflicting grievous bodily harm", so far as physical injuries were concerned, at least impliedly if not indeed expressly, had to include the infliction of "actual bodily harm" because the infliction of the more serious injuries had to include the infliction of the less serious injuries.

Did the allegation of "inflicting" include an allegation of "assault"? The problem had arisen because English case law had proceeded along two different paths. One group of cases held that a verdict of assault was a possible alternative on a charge under section 20.

In the other group grievous bodily harm was said to have been inflicted without any assault having taken place, unless of course the offence of assault were to be given a much wider significance than was usually attached to it.

His Lordship was content to accept, as had the Supreme Court of Victoria in *R v Salisbury* ([1976] VR 452) that there could be an infliction of grievous bodily harm contrary to section 20 without an assault being committed.

The critical question therefore was whether it being accepted that a charge of inflicting grievous bodily harm contrary to section 20 might not necessarily involve an allegation of assault, but might nonetheless do so, and in very many cases would involve such an allegation - the allegations in a section 20 charge "include" either expressly or by implication "allegations of assault occasioning actual bodily harm."

If "inflicting" could, as the cases showed, include "inflicting by assault", then even though such a charge might not necessarily do so, his Lordship did not see why on a fair reading of section 6(3) those allegations did not at least impliedly include "inflicting by assault". That was sufficient for present purposes although it was also a possible view that those former allegations expressly included the other allegations.

Once the reasoning in *Springfield* was rejected, and the reasoning in his Lordship's speech was accepted, it followed that both the judge and the recorder were correct in leaving the possibility of conviction of the section 47 offences to the jury in the cases.

If it was said that the conclusion exposed the defendant to the risk of

conviction on a charge which would not have been fully investigated at the trial on the count in the indictment, the answer was that a trial judge had always to ensure, before deciding to leave the possibility of conviction of another offence to the jury under section 6(3), that that course would involve no risk of injustice to the defendant and that he had had the opportunity of fully meeting that alternative in the course of his defence.

His Lordship would allow both appeals. It followed that the convictions for offences against section 47 of the 1861 Act should be restored in both appeals.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Metropolitan Police, H. C. I. Haines & Co; Sharpe, Pritchard & Co; Boxall & Boxall for Godfrey Davis & Wain, Ramsgate.

Authorities not needed

Foskett v Mistry
Reference to authorities in simple running down cases was unnecessary and was to be deprecated in the future, Lord Justice May said in the Court of Appeal on October 6.

The court allowed an appeal on liability by an infant plaintiff suing by his father from Mr Justice Hooper who on May 4, 1982 had given judgment for the defendant.

Refusal to hear bail plea

Regina v Dacorum Justices, Ex parte Barker
Where justices had refused to hear a bail application, the appropriate remedy would usually be to apply to the crown court or to the judge in chambers for bail, not to apply for judicial review of the justices' refusal.

Mr Justice Woolf so stated in the Queen's Bench Division on October

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THE ARTS

Theatre

Monstrous myth

Little Shop of Horrors
Comedy

Even without the rumour of subterranean alligators, there is a strong sense of monsters breeding down in the New York sewers, along with the corpses of extinct Broadway shows, and both horrors rise to the surface in Howard Ashman's musical.

Mr Ashman tells the tale of Seymour, backroom wonder boy in a dead-end flower shop, who saves the place from going bust by producing a hitherto unknown plant, 1313 Skid Row is instantly besieged with big-spending customers, the boss adopts Seymour as his son, and even the delectable sales clerk, Audrey, begins to look at him with melting eyes.

The only trouble is that the plant (Audrey II) feeds exclusively on human blood, for which its appetite matches its alarming growth. Upright, Audrey II looks something like a desert cactus, nosing down to earth and roaring its rock 'n' roll demands for food, it resembles an eyesore crocodile or an amphibious green shark.

Martin P. Robinson, the creator of this carnivorous vegetable, has done for cactuses what Hitchcock did for the common crow.

To begin with its eating habits fit in neatly with Seymour's plans, as they enable him to dispose of Audrey's boyfriend, a Hell's Angels dentist who knocks her about and, as the plant rightly remarks, "looks like fish food to me." Then the nightmare gets a grip and, one by one, the boss, Audrey and Seymour himself - on the eve of getting his photograph on the cover of *Life* - go down the big red lane.

When last sighted, Audrey II has swollen to fill the entire stage, with electric blue tentacles, flores framing human

heads, and cavernous maw trumpeting the threat "Here I come for you", as the audience cower among Amazonian froths descending from the roof.

Mr Ashman has described this story as an updated version of the Faust legend. It could equally well apply to the Bomb, or to any doomsday discovery that is keeping a few people in business for the time being. Alternatively, you could see it as an ugly racist fable on the danger of nourishing aliens in our midst. The fact that it can cut in so many directions is proof that Mr Ashman is on to a genuine myth, and his production lets it do its own work, going straight to the point with maximum energy.

By presenting the fable as a musical, not only does he gain laughs, but also intensifies its melodramatic force by setting up the expectation of a happy ending. You expect the conscience-stricken Seymour to get the girl; you expect virtue to triumph over the lust for fame in a heroic machete battle with the plant. The same contrast is built into the design (Edward Gierman and Tim Goodchild).

Alan Menken's score, likewise, dispenses tangos, pounding ballads and basic rock with a tongue-in-cheek naivety that allows the company full scope for sick variations; particularly from Ellen Greene's Audrey, a platinum doll lipping her dialogue and then releasing a brazen voice to slay every romantic lover within a five-minute radius.

Of Barry James, timidly contemplating his good luck from behind owlish glasses and reproving his monster protégé with the heartbroken line "You ate the only thing I ever loved", you can only say that he is one of nature's Seymours.

Irving Wardle

Dear Old Blighty
Coliseum, Oldham

After *Tishoo* at Wyndham's a few years ago and now this, I am starting to get a taste for Brian Thompson's comedies. Apparently rambling and tempting impatience at the time, they are also touching and leave a big sense of fermenting enjoyment, if confusingly, in the mind afterwards. *Dear Old Blighty* takes place in a humdrum veterans' club where the sole survivor of the Kaiser's war is about to transfer control to one of the 1939-45 generation, recently and reluctantly given membership. The incoming president is a town councillor mad on redevelopment; Jacqueline Guman's club bar set stands in an urban wasteland of bricks from demolished streets and a multi-story carpark, establishing the Blighty Club as a symbol for a nation facing drastic overhaul as well as one aspect of that nation's consciousness.

In the foreground however are unexpected figures: the regular barmaid (middle-aged and attractive) and her daughter, both married to dreary men, finding love elsewhere but uncertain about taking the plunge. Young June's angry description of comfortable

suburban futility, blazingly delivered by Jane Hollowood and implicitly contrasted with the veterans' sense of identity and values, is one of the points where the planes of meaning connect. But she also represents youth revulsion from war memories, especially the former POW (a beautifully controlled performance by Leonard Fenton) hoarding chests of documents on his Japanese tormentor. Even her cuddly boyfriend (Andrew Hay), an electrician on hand for the modernizations, believes in preventing future wars by forgetting past ones.

Taking incomprehension to the limit, skinheads vandalize the place and destroy the Japanese archive. For the architect it proves to be a liberation, and the barmaid, equally contented, leaves club and husband for a handsome widower (Richard Steele) who has outgrown his past as well. Susan Uebel's performance, like Pat Trueman's production as a whole, is warm and benefits from being firmly rooted in a very real world where a woman setting up house with her lover worries about being seen with him in a cheap skirt and wonders if she can still make good pasta.

Anthony Masters

Opera

La Colombe
Sadler's Wells

The serendipitous baroque opera festival at Sadler's Wells - Vivaldi from Buxton, Rameau from the Bach Festival and next month Handel from the Handel Opera Society - is interrupted this week by more recent fare from Buxton: Herbert Chappell's *James* and the *Giant Peach*, playing mornings and afternoons, and Gounod's *La Colombe* as an enjoyable light-hearted romp for the grown-ups.

Actually, Gounod's opera has a pretty childish story, sewn together by Barbier and Carré in 1860 as a warm-up for *Faust* and owing more to La Fontaine's fable than to the Boccaccio theme around which Buxton arranged this year's festival. But Stuart Burge's production whisks the tale of a down-and-out noble wastrel to a vaguely present-day setting in which Horatio and his punk companion Mazet hang out in a derelict camp-site hilariously designed by John Byrne to look like a Salvador Dali rubbish tip. Since Wilson has rewritten the dialogue (the recitatives Foulenc composed for a later revival are not essayed) and - with Rosemary Barnes - the lyrics, to drag in self-sufficiency and Chinese takeaways, Adrian Thompson repeats his Horatio, fervent in song but fuzzy of character, and Linda Ormiston her punchy pink-haired Mazet, every word scrupulously clear, every musical line crispy projected.

To the pretensions of the strobish Maître Jean, Alan Opie now brings a splendid presence, tossing off with a rich, full tone the often baroque posturings of his music. Especially welcome to this quartet is Elizabeth Harwood as the Cypriote Sylvia, whose quest for Horatio's dove provides the fable's main meaning of the story. She sings a virginal part, not always steadily, but with real stylishness and wit, and commands the stage.

With all the trendy updating, one might think that Gounod would not survive. But, sensitively conducted by Anthony Hose (though the playing left something to be desired), his music emerges as the real pleasure of the evening.

Nicholas Kenyon

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THE ARTS

Scottish Opera is in a potentially fatal quandary: Bryan Appleyard reports To go local – or to go out of business?

Opera and Scotland are going to have to make up their minds about each other. After three years of lurching from crisis to crisis, Scotland's national opera company is on the brink. The issues have finally crystallized around the central question of local service versus national prestige. If the argument goes one way the general administrator will resign, if it goes the other substantial new money will have to be found.

The present phase of Scottish Opera's problems began in the summer of 1980 when the company slumped into a deficit of £440,000 and a recovery programme was launched. All seemed to be progressing well and a new general administrator – John Cox, who had been director of productions at Glyndebourne for 10 years – was appointed. He took up his post in July last year and by October he had discovered that the recovery programme was wildly off course. Scottish Opera was

heading for a deficit of about £800,000 at the end of the year. Cox cut back as much as he could, but it was too late, and the feared deficit materialized. Only with the aid of a grant of £235,000 from Glasgow, and another £400,000 squeezed out of the Government's £5m one-off payment for the arts earlier this year, could the company survive. But that still left them well in the red.

This year Cox has restricted the company to six performances each of eight operas at their Glasgow base – the 1,500-seat Theatre Royal – and some English touring, the marginal costs of which are covered by the Arts

Council in London. What is all too obviously missing is any Scottish touring, which is the key role for the company laid down by the Scottish Arts Council.

The SAC's subsidy comes to just under £2.4m this year, representing 21 per cent of the council's total budget. It has no intention of letting that percentage rise. Meanwhile local authority money has dwindled from £170,000 four years ago to £90,000 last year. On these figures Scottish Opera has a choice: it can restrict itself to 38 performances in Glasgow next year, with some English touring, or it can tour in Scotland with ruthlessly restricted production costs.

For Cox the latter is not a serious alternative. It would mean the end of the company as a distinguished representative of the nation and a serious world-ranking production house. He would resign on the basis that it is not the sort of company he was contracted to run.

The SAC has threatened to cut the subsidy completely unless the company knuckles under and becomes a local, low-cost touring. At present these are the extreme parameters of the negotiation, but Cox has forced the pace by saying, in the company's yearbook, that this season may be the last, and by dumping the company's detailed proposals for next season in

the SAC's lap. The ball is now in its court.

The pressure could yet be eased if a meeting with George Younger, the Secretary of State for Scotland, later this month produces anything. Hopes are reasonably high as it was an appeal to Younger which brought the £400,000 earlier in the year. And both sides are agreed that more money is what is required.

But the wider significance of the crisis lies first in the questions it raises about the regional policy on arts subsidy. As the result of a long-standing anomaly Welsh National Opera receives £1m more in subsidy than Scottish Opera, because it

accepts London money on a bare arrangement – involving contributions to production costs – rather than a marginal-cost arrangement for its productions in England. The SAC rejected this some years ago, wishing to retain its autonomy as the sole funder of the Scottish arts companies. Scottish Opera is now paying the price of the SAC's national pride and is frankly more inclined to support the proposals of the Priestley Secretary on the English national companies – that funds should come direct from central government.

Secondly, of course, it raises the whole question of the regional commitment to this most expensive of all the arts. Rumbles have been heard from the SAC about what role something as extravagant and non-indigenous as opera has in its country. There is, of course, no short answer, which leaves us back where we started: opera and Scotland are going to have to make up their minds about each other.

Television Misused friends

The badger is an amiable fellow and has no known enemies, they told us in BBC2's *Open Space* last night with rather a courtroom ring. The badger's business and diet are helpful to the countryside and he would be quite happy left to his own devices. Parliament acknowledged his good citizenship in 1973, passing the Badger Act, meant to stop people badgering him and turning him into shaving brushes or spoons.

Non-Scots and users of electric razors could therefore watch last night's film, by the 22-year-old Graham Horder, who spent 40 nights outside badger sets to make his *The Badgers of Gwent*, with a clear conscience.

Gwent was the first place to form a group to protect badgers and try to ensure that the Badger Act was enforced. A network of similar groups is now established round the country. Despite this, the badger is still baited – a horrifying process – and ill-used, though this will hopefully decline as the groups get on with their monitoring, mapping and numbering of the badgers' addresses.

Apart from ourselves, the badger is Britain's largest carnivore. If we are unkind to it we also lack consideration to each other. Watching G. F. Newman's *The Nation's Health* on Channel 4 last night, the plight of the badger receded swiftly.

Mr Newman's play was called *Decline*. Last week's was *Acute* and we can look forward to *Chronic* and *Collapse* in the next weeks. His thesis, in a nutshell, is that medicine and medical people have become too technological, leaving healing and humanity behind. His seeker after unpalatable truth in this series is Dr Jessie Marvell, who is to descend the hill of disillusion in all four plays.

The series is already far into "overkill". Mr Newman, who, I understand, does not have a doctor and might, after this, not find one easily, is putting all his bad eggs in one basket to the detriment of a message that might otherwise be salutary. The series is likely to hold only masochistic doctors and apprehensive medical students for the duration of its run.

David Robinson

Dennis Hackett

Cinema Richness of moral speculation

Blow to the Heart
ICA Cinema

In the White City
(15)
Phoenix East Finchley

At First Sight (15)
Academy 1

Eve (18)
Electric Cinema

Young Giants (U)
Classic Haymarket

Gianni Amelio is an experienced film-maker who nevertheless only emerges from the forests of television film production – where the wood is generally obscured by the trees – with his eighth feature film, *Blow to the Heart* (*Colpire al cuore*). Ostensibly it is about terrorism and its effects on ordinary people and ordinary sensibilities, but even before the film was begun terrorism was yesterday's news in Italy, and the film is about more fundamental human and social relationships.

Both in style and subject – the relations of a son and a father who proves a fallen idol –

the film has similarities to the early works of Bernardo Bertolucci, a director Amelio evidently greatly admires. Emilio, serious, a diligent student, as morally intransigent as it is only possible to remain at 16 or so, is the son of Dario (Jean-Louis Trintignant, who played Bertolucci's Conformist). Emilio is puzzled and troubled when his father entertains two of his students – a young couple with a baby – in the country. Later he sees the young man shot dead as a terrorist. Suspicious of his father's involvement with the couple, he reports him to the police. Later, dissatisfied with his father's explanations, he spies on his meetings with the girl student, and finally denounces both of them.

It is a reversal of the familiar conflict of the generations. Here it is the younger generation which is setting itself in judgment (albeit with inadequate understanding and experience of human hearts and human frailty) over the parents, and the parents whose compromises and evasion of traditional family responsibilities are in question. Dario blames himself (rightly enough) for failing to "watch" the boy, but all the time his son is playing voyeur to his actions.

Rich in socio-moral implication and speculation, *Colpire al cuore* is also a film of assured and mature style, with the ever-mobile camera watching the world – the civilized, remote home where Emilio's mother is isolated by the headphones of her dictating machine as she

endlessly types, some scholarly thesis; the deceptive serenity of the urban wilderness where the girl hides out – through Emilio's curious, innocent, judging eyes. Trintignant, even dubbed, is flawless in the role of the anxious father; and as the boy Fausto Rossi, an adolescent who can appear from moment to moment like a baby or as wise as the hills, is at least an equal partner to this highly professional performance.

Alain Tanner is one of the most talented film-makers currently working in Europe, with the rare gift of compelling interest with whatever he shows on the screen. Even so, in the *White City* (*Dance of the White City*) he conveys the uneasy impression that, having found money to make a film, moved his crew to Lisbon and cast Bruno Ganz, he was not quite certain what to do next. His admission that the film was written from day to day, as events decided, seems to confirm this and to explain its free-associational drift.

Ganz has the look of one of the alienated walkabouts, here of Wim Wenders' films. He lands up in Lisbon off a boat on which he has been working as a stoker, takes a room over a bar in the harbour district and falls into an affair with the maid-of-all-work. Between times he drifts around the streets, filming in a desultory way with an 8mm camera. He sends his films, recording the streets, himself, his love affair, to his wife in Switzerland, and the two of them carry on a strange, abstract, literary correspondence.

It seems, in common with earlier Tanner films, a reflection on freedom and entrapment. The hero, at first seemingly the freest of men, is progressively trapped, by his sentiments, by a robbery which leaves him without money either to stay or to go, by an injury in a fight. But the reflections are as directionless as the character; and Ganz's peregrinations seem eventually and frustratingly like an exploration into nowhere.



The scenery *en route* is fine enough; Ganz, even doing nothing, is watchable; and Tanner's vision of Lisbon, with the dream-like interpolations of 8mm film, is striking.

A title at the end of *At First Sight* (*Coup de foudre*) indicates that it is an autobiographical reminiscence of her parents by the writer-director Diane Kurys (her co-seniorist was Alain Le Henry). This may explain its rather inconsequential progression, both dramatically and psychologically. Ms Kurys tells the story of two women, from 1942 and Vichy France to 1954. Lena (Isabelle Huppert) is a Belgian Jew who marries a legionnaire, also Jewish, to avoid deportation. Madeleine (Miou-Miou), an art school student in 1942, sees her new husband killed in a skirmish between resistance and militia. Twelve years later the paths of these two women cross. By this time Lena has two children and her husband has turned out to be devoted, dull and rather

sung. Madeleine has married a feckless actor given to disastrous get-rich-quick schemes, and has borne a dim little son. It is hardly surprising that the two women find each other a good deal more fun than their respective husbands.

The rather dramatic denouement at which the film eventually arrives finds the spectator somewhat unprepared. The wartime scenes have only the most tenuous structural con-

nexion with the rest; and when the main part of the action begins, it trundles along with the leisurely trivia of soap opera – domestic spats and embarrassments, children lost or locked in lavatories, mild flirtations that are nobody's secret, the recurrent tragicomic edicts of the actor's money-making ideas. Perfectly adequately played, both incident and character seem for the most part so slight that you are left

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THE TIMES DIARY

Recommissioned

Odd goings-on at the residence of the Indian High Commissioner, Dr. V. A. Seyid Muhammad, who will welcome the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh to a dinner later this month in honour of the royal visit to India in November. According to reliable sources, the house in Kensington Palace Gardens is now rapidly undergoing extensive redecoration and refurbishment following a whirlwind visit last week by Mrs Gandhi on her way from New York to Delhi.

On inspecting the grade II listed building, the Indian Prime Minister is said to have blown her top at the decaying paintwork and dusty furniture and fittings. A spokesman for the High Commission insists, however, that the work is merely part of "normal maintenance".

Members of the women's peace movement have taken a giant stride towards achieving unilateral nuclear disarmament in Britain. They have persuaded a terrified department store in Hereford to stop selling a toy missile system because it looks like a cruise missile launcher.

Dog days

What goes through the pretty head of a model like Lorraine Cole when she is being photographed in poses of exquisite catatonica on a tropical beach by David Bailey? I found out at the launch of Bailey's 1984 Lambis Navy Rum calendar. In the case of Miss Cole, who appears clad mostly in blank looks, it is not a matter of wondering whether the neighbours are feeding the cat in her absence but how to stop the dog eating. One of Bailey's shots, in which Miss Cole's blankness is complemented by a necklace of dead tuna, was complicated by a Tahitian bound's insatiable interest in the fish. "I was a bit worried it was going to bite my ankle off," said Miss Cole. Neither she nor Bailey knew which month the picture represented on the calendar. "Dunno," said the photographer. "It's Pisces."

Polish radio presenters have been told that from Monday no American West German or Norwegian music may be played. This is not simply to punish Norway for giving Wales the Nobel Prize but also to suppress a surge of pro-western sentiment expected during the forthcoming twenty-fifth International Jazz Jamboire in Warsaw at which leading musicians such as Miles Davis will play.

BARRY FANTONI



"It's the radical leftist privilege-seekers I feel sorry for"

Members of the SDP who recruit new members are eligible for some glittering prizes. Those scoring 50 points will be invited to spend an evening with David Owen. Those who score 20 points (no, not two evenings with him) will receive a badge or brooch, a year's subscription to the party's newsletter and a free ticket to the SDP's 1984 conference where, presumably, they will be able to gaze at Owen for a whole week.

Thatcher's no-go

The Prime Minister was in a forgiving mood when she disclosed that Denis had failed to buy her a fifty-eighth birthday present yesterday. Emerging from the lift at the Imperial Hotel in Blackpool to be greeted with a cake from the hotel management, she said: "He has not had time. We have been far too busy."

The Prime Minister said she expects a present from Denis to cover both birthday and wedding anniversary later in the year. Asked by one back whether the approach of her sixtieth birthday indicated retirement, Mrs Thatcher replied "No" (four times).

Recently returned from Positano in southern Italy, where he met Franco Zeffirelli, BBC Omnibus presenter Richard Baker relates a delightful story of the maestro's contretemps with Law Grade during the making of Jesus of Nazareth. "He almost wanted me to cut down the number of Apostles, bring them down to six," said Zeffirelli.

Michael Montague, chairman of the English Tourist Board, is pleased to have concluded a two-year haul to secure a Greater London Council bid for his headquarters at 4 Grosvenor Gardens. He has also secured the blessing of GLC and of the landlord, the Duke of Westminster. Then he had to squeeze on to the plaque the inscription "Anthropologist, archaeologist and explorer Lt. Gen. Augustus Henry Lane Fox Pitt-Rivers lived here." This worthy inhabited the building between 1884 and 1896.

PHS

Why the Democratic presidential front-runners are worried by the lesser lights

The battle of the images

Washington
Walter Mondale last week had his "dream week", winning in quick succession the massive endorsement of the AFL-CIO union organization and the National Education Association, then going on to announce his Democratic rivals for the presidential nomination in a heavily-contested party "straw poll" in Maine.

Now it is the turn of his chief rival for the Democratic nomination, Senator John Glenn, to enjoy a spate of favourable media attention. On Sunday the film *The Right Stuff*, which portrays the former astronaut Glenn in a less prissy, more heroic light than in the Tom Wolfe novel on which the movie is based, had its glittering premiere at the Kennedy Center in Washington.

The previous evening the Glenn nomination campaign is to launch itself with a five-minute televised political commercial spectacular on prime time over the CBS network.

The Glenn campaign staff insist that the launch date of *The Right Stuff* and the film's flattering portrayal of their candidate are entirely coincidental with Glenn's own presidential ambitions. But they nevertheless concede that the film fits in admirably with their overall strategy, which is to build up a tidal wave of popular support for Glenn, based on his fame as an astronaut and his reputation as an Eisenhower-style national hero.

Mondale's latest political successes and Glenn's impending media blitz (which has already begun with a cover story about *The Right Stuff* in *Newsweek* and extensive coverage in *Time*) mark the beginning of a more combative stage in the race to gain the Democratic Party's nomination to run for President in 1984. The seven declared candidates — with an eighth, the Rev Jesse Jackson, expected to declare himself shortly — are now beginning to hurt at each other the sort of criticisms usually reserved for their common enemy, President Reagan.

Mondale, noting Glenn's hawkish stand on defence and his past support for the President's tax-cut legislation, has accused the Ohio senator of being a lukewarm Democrat, too conservative to appeal to "real Democrats".

Glenn has responded by accusing Mondale of pandering to and becoming the captive of special interest groups. "Mondale runs the risk of being labelled 'union-owned and operated'," a member of his staff commented.

Glenn has also continued to hammer away at the theme that the polls persist in showing him as the Democratic challenger President Reagan fears most.

The intensity of the Democratic race has taken on at this early stage — with still more than 400 days to go before the election takes place — has largely been caused by the demands of next year's calendar for primaries and state caucuses, which will select the 3,931 delegates to attend the Democratic Party convention in San Francisco in July.

Because so many key primaries and caucuses are being held early next year, 45 per cent of the delegates will have been selected by April 1. This means that it is vital for candidates to make a big impact early on, particularly if they are to pick up the political "megabucks" which a candidate needs if he has any chance of winning.

The Mondale and Glenn "dream



MONDALE, Walter "Fritz", 55, son of a Methodist minister. Active in politics for 23 years, withdrew early from 1975 presidential contest because he did "not have the overwhelming desire to be president". Vice-president to Jimmy Carter from 1976-80, has since tried to distance himself from Carter's unpopular policies. Best financed and best organized campaign.



GLENN, Senator John Hirschel, 61, son of Ohio plumber. Marine Corps pilot in Second World War. In Korea shot down three Chinese MiGs during last nine days of the war. Rocketed to international fame in 1962 as first American astronaut to orbit the earth. Great charm but only slight charisma. Has steadily closed gap with Mondale.



CRANSTON, Senator Alan, 69, son of wealthy San Francisco property developer. Man of tireless energy, has spent most of his life pursuing goals never quite achieved. Running on one issue — nuclear disarmament — with considerable success. Despite dying few remaining grey hairs and penchant for being photographed in track suits, considered "too old, too gaunt, too liberal".



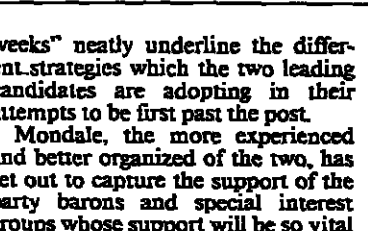
HART, Senator Gary, 45, son of Kansas farm equipment salesman. Managed George McGovern's 1972 presidential campaign. Speeches deal with need for an industrial policy, streamlined tax code and lesser military forces, rather than political platitudes. Religious, self-effacing, lacks vote-getting determination and populist touch. Sees himself as man of the future.



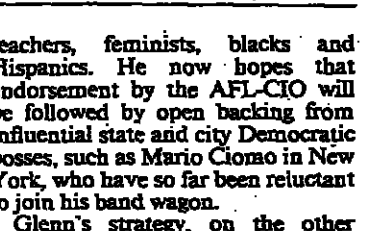
JACKSON, Rev Jesse Louis, 41, illegitimate. Said to have cradled dying Martin Luther King in his arms after 1968 shooting, has since sought to take over King's mantle. Denounced by critics as demagogue and gadfly but now most-quoted black leader. Funding of his black educational charity could come in for close scrutiny should he run.



McGOVERN, George, 61, son of midwestern minister. Second World War bomber pilot, senator for South Dakota 1962-80. Surprise Democratic candidate in 1972, defeated by Nixon. Since losing his Senate seat has lectured, made comfortable living from property. Without funds organization, should be complete outsider. Yet polls show his name still has allure.



ASKEW, Reubin, 53, one of five children brought up by his divorced mother, a hotel housekeeper, in Florida. Nicknamed "Reubin the Good", has reputation for integrity and candour. As Governor of Florida appointed first black to state's Supreme Court, first woman to state cabinet. Born-again Christian, neither smokes nor drinks.



HOLLINGS, Senator Ernest "Fritz", 61, son of paper salesman. Self-made, despite southern aristocrat appearance, was Governor of South Carolina at 36 and US senator at 44 — longest record in public office of any Democratic candidate. Lacks a coherent philosophy and responds to political passions of the moment. Quick humour and sharp tongue.



Another bumper harvest — and probably of 1979 standard quality

The most sparkling success story is champagne, where the vines were expected to be "tired" after last year's exceptional effort, but which now look as if they will produce a record-breaking 330 million bottles, double the average of the preceding five years. Champagne stocks, which plummeted after the particularly poor harvests of 1978, 1980 and 1981, have already been brought back to a satisfactory 540 million bottles, and there is now talk for the first time in years of champagne prices remaining stable or even of actually falling slightly.

It is still too soon to predict with any certainty the quality of this year's wines, but most experts would agree with the general observation of M Edouard Dabadie, chief buyer for Nicolas wines, that while 1983 is not likely to be a great year, it will probably be a good year, similar in quality to 1979 or 1981.

In France — unlike in Britain, where only its table wines are sold — Nicolas is the leader in the quality *appellation controlee* market, with an annual turnover of £68m. The fall in domestic consumption of wine is causing the company serious concern.

Twenty-five years ago, the French drank 140 litres of wine per head of population a year. Today's figure is 80 litres. Consumption of beer and spirits has gone up during that period, but the main cause has been to soft drinks — and water. As living standards have risen, people are drinking less, but better.

The French family no longer automatically sits down to every meal with a litre of wine on the table. The ecological movement has

prompted teenagers to turn to soft drinks, fruit juice and milk.

Another reason for the trend away from *vin ordinaire* is quite simply that it has become very much more *ordinaire*. It has to be enriched with the stronger, fuller-bodied, better-quality Algerian wine, but that practice came to an end when Algeria became independent in 1962. Corsican wine has been used in its place, but the result is not as good.

Efforts are therefore being concentrated on improving the production of *vin ordinaire*, and with some success. The better quality, non-AC wines from a specified area now have the right to be called *vin de pays* to distinguish them from the cheaper *vins de table*.

It is a myth to believe that you can buy a bottle labelled *vin de table* which is really surplus Chateau Margaux. Any AC wine produced above the quantity limits imposed for that vineyard in that particular year has to be thrown away or made into vinegar. It is illegal to sell it even as table wine. That rule is imposed to prevent vine growers from "over-producing", which almost invariably results in a poorer quality wine. In practice, very little wine is ever wasted in this way.

While wine consumption has been falling in France and Italy, the two greatest wine-bibbing countries, it has been rising in most other western countries. In Britain, it has almost tripled over the past decade from 2.9 litres per head per year to nearly 8 litres — though still well behind the 80 litres in France, 70 in Italy, 50 in Switzerland, and 25 in West Germany.

Britain, along with the US and

appeal over their heads to the rank-and-file Democrats and to the uncommitted.

"Mondale's strategy is... an organizational, constituency-based strategy," said Greg Schneiders, Glenn's press secretary. "In the Glenn campaign, we place a premium on communication that goes directly to the voters. While not ignoring organization, it is possible that organization will turn out to be like sand castles on the beach when a tidal wave comes in."

At present Mondale is well ahead in the fund-raising stakes. But Glenn is showing he can attract broad financial support, while outsiders, like Senator Alan Cranston, have been able to shower hundreds of thousands of dollars on their campaigns at this early stage, to ensure a good enough showing in "straw polls" and to keep alive the notion that this is not just a two-horse race. The Glenn campaign staff hope that the sand castles, such as Mondale's endorsement by the 14 million strong AFL-CIO, will be swept away by the forthcoming Glenn publicity wave. Glenn's attitude is that the AFL-CIO vote represented only the views of union bosses, and that finally she is encouraged to answer the Chinese back. How? By spelling out the message that China's own patriots in Hongkong do not want her to run their lives or economy? Would that help the colony? You do not need to be Chinese to understand "face".

Now that the negotiations are soon to be resumed, it is a good time for coolness and clarity. The first thing to be clear about is the economic interests of each party. These are not quite what they seem. To start with, let us for two reasons go a little easy on the argument that Hongkong is indispensable to China.

China would not lose all its foreign exchange income if it were rash enough to try to run Hongkong itself. The figure of 40 per cent of its foreign exchange is tossed about. The real figure is probably closer to 30 per cent — still a lot, but some of this comes from re-exports and would continue to flow to China, even in the worst case.

But in China, economic considerations do not always predominate. I spent several years there during the Cultural Revolution, and watched extreme politics and chauvinism overrule common sense and self-interest. The consequences were ugly, and expensive. I also once took part in some tense, secret negotiations (they were later leaked) in an obscure restaurant in Hongkong where we and the mainland representatives grappled with the problems of the overflow of the Cultural Revolution into the colony, during which more than 30 people had died. Our view was that while we ran the place, law and order would apply to "Maoists" as much as to anyone else.

The Chinese got the point then. But that experience, and some pretty hair-raising events along the frontier at the time, left me with a sober impression of the delicacy of the balance on which the territory rests. We now have a new China, but a China in which old demons and resentments still slumber — as shown by the tone of Peking's recent pronouncements on Hongkong. These people feel strongly that part of their territory has been alienated by force, and are tempted to take it back.

The Chinese will not, I hope, make the mistake of supposing that Hongkong is a great source of wealth for Britain. We draw no direct revenue from it, although the balance of payments is in our favour. (A sensible sentiment could leave us with most of our commercial interests intact.) Nor, I assume, do we wish to continue to run it to perpetuate imperial glory. Our chief concerns are thus moral and pragmatic: do we want to see Hongkong and its citizens in diplomacy, as in everyday life, the key question is often not what you want, but how you are going to get it. An uncompromising demand for an extension of the present lease would liquidate both empire and prosperity in short order. I doubt if anyone wants that. Those who assume that it is possible or prudent to negotiate in this way show no awareness of the simple power relationships, no understanding of Chinese national pride — the most powerful and volatile element in the whole equation; and so no practical concern for the welfare of the territory.

Prosperity depends on a Sino-British entente about the future. I am convinced a settlement can be achieved, though it will not be forced out of the Chinese in adversarial negotiations. The main elements should be a continued British presence in some form; a measure of autonomy; and the firmest guarantees available. The treaties are already a block to progress, and must inevitably at some stage be tacitly put aside.

We must think particularly carefully about our own role. As things stand, we need another case of responsibility without power. Is our desire to continue administering the territory so strong that we wish to do so even if we have no real control over events?

Look at the upheavals, the power struggles and the drastic reversals of policy in China over the last 15 years, and the West's inability to predict these sea changes. Is it necessarily in our interests, or in those of Hongkong, to seek blind to perpetuate into the future arrangements which have worked well, in different circumstances, in the past?

It is impossible to imagine a large and stabilizing British presence (eg, in the Civil Service) short of complete responsibility. In the long run, this could offer a lower profile and more security for Hongkong, and less temptation for Peking to step in. Anyone wishing to posture on the sidelines of the negotiations should remember that tough talk alone, like "concern", never helped anybody.

However tempted we are to call China's bluff, let us remember that we are dealing with not only an economy, but (as Mr Levin reminded us) with more than five million people and a distinct culture. Having once studied Tang poetry with a Hongkong Chinese tutor in an aromatic tenement near Wan-chai, with the noise of the mah-jong games drifting through open windows, I am keenly aware of this aspect of our responsibility. The future of these splendid and resourceful people will not be secured by gladiatorial gestures, but only by calm, firm and persistent diplomacy.

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We ken The Word the noo

The Word of the Lord is one of the two principal spirits that fuel Scotsmen. It has often been more potent, and sometimes more violent, than whisky. There is a popular view north of the border that God is a Scot, something like a white-bearded Wood Free minister, looking down on his infinite mairny on the miserable sinners howling in eternal flames, and telling them sternly: "Well, ye ken the noo". No doubt God speaks Scots. But until today there has been no translation of his Word in the Scottish tongue. Well, there is the noo, with the publication of *The New Testament in Scots* for the William Leighton Lorrimer Trust by Southside, publishers, of Edinburgh.

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George Walden

Don't be gung-ho about Hongkong

"A quarrel between Hongkong and Canton is like a quarrel between the mouth and the belly. If they fight, the whole body suffers." Thus General Li Chai-sum, Governor of Canton province, half a century ago. The general, a sensible man, might have added that in any row between Britain and China, Hongkong would suffer most.

We may be in for a difficult time on Hongkong. The Chinese sometimes seem to be concerned about the past rather than the future. They should worry more about today's Hongkong dollar, and less about yesterday's treaties. It does no one any good to talk (or rather shout) down the dollar, or to hold up the British as ravenous neo-colonialists.

There are plenty of home-grown critics, too. Mrs Thatcher, we were told, was rash to raise the issue in the first place. Should she have just let Hongkong drift towards the rocks in the same way as our economy did before she took over? Others urge her to slap down a demand for an extension of the lease, and be damned. We would not be damned: Hongkong would. And finally she is encouraged to answer the Chinese back. How? By spelling out the message that China's own patriots in Hongkong do not want her to run their lives or economy? Would that help the colony? You do not need to be Chinese to understand "face".

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IN A STATE OF UNCERTAINTY

The Conservative Party conference should have taken place in an atmosphere of confidence and elation. The triumph of June 9 should have been celebrated by the presentation of a clear idea of how the Government will use its renewed power, and where it will invite the party and the country to follow it during the next five years. Yet since the election, both performance and the presentation of policy have been lacklustre and uncertain. Instead of being confidently on the advance, carrying public opinion with it, the Government has found itself on the defensive and it cannot be said that the conference, so far, has helped to restore its poise. The most valuable use that can be made of this conference is that it should serve as a warning that the Government cannot take anything for granted.

The unseemly public deployment of Mr Cecil Parkinson's unhappy personal problems has not helped the Government, or the Conservative Party, to keep their minds on their proper business, or to meet the public with self confidence. By not resigning before he himself issued the statement which made his private difficulty public property, Mr Parkinson laid too much on his party and specifically too much on the conference which was on the point of assembling at Blackpool. It is not a question of measuring this unhappy episode against some precise scale of moral conduct, expressed in generalities, which infallibly and rigidly determines when and on what grounds a minister in embarrassing personal circumstances should resign. It is rather a question of the political instinct which, in all the circumstances of a particular case, should make it possible to foresee when resignation is desirable because the consequences of non-resignation would be damaging to the Government and the party.

The unseemliness of the public attention which was inevitably focused on Mr Parkinson and his difficulties at Blackpool was one such consequence. Another was the uncertainty about how to respond to him or to refer to him. Ministers have had to sift their speeches for fear that some accidental double meanings might produce embarrassment. The conference itself, for fear of seeming to criticise him, was moved to receive Mr Parkinson with an ovation that was excessive, even

for one who had, as party chairman, contributed much to electoral victory.

This response of the conference was understandable in a party which is always pre-disposed to unity and to respect for its leaders. The chivalry of the reception given to Mr Parkinson was, in one sense, touching. But the question why precisely they were cheering the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry quite so hard in itself expresses the essence of an unhappy episode which has not helped the Conservative Party to concentrate sufficiently on its proper business.

Doing so was, in any case, proving somewhat difficult. The general tiredness of ministers after the election and the fact that the Prime Minister was unwell before her eye operation, and was for a time naturally debilitated after it, did not help the Government to give a clear account of its intention for its second term. In particular, the Cabinet has shown signs of confusion in its approach to the public on the longer-term problem of public spending and an uncertainty of touch in handling the economies necessary to stay within its cash targets for the coming year.

It has laid itself open to the charge that, having committed itself to the National Health Service before the election so enthusiastically, and having taken pride in employing more doctors and nurses than ever, it has since imposed manpower restrictions which cover doctors and nurses as well as administrators and ancillary workers. The charge that it is indifferent to the well-being of the Health Service is one that substantially lacks substance. The Government knows it must be committed to uphold the NHS and its standards and if it had had any doubt yesterday's debate at the Tory Conference on the Health Service would have removed them.

One of the more attractive aspects of a Conservative conference is that debates on particular social questions bring to the rostrum people from the constituencies who are not speaking in the generalities of amateur politicians but from their personal experience of a particular social service - in this case as members of local authorities, doctors, nurses and voluntary workers. Any idea that the active Conservatives, let alone the millions of Conservative voters, are less than committed to the

NHS on which they personally depend is absurd and Mr Norman Fowler rightly responded yesterday with a robust declaration of his own commitment.

Nevertheless, questions still overhang the long-term prospect for public spending as a whole in which the welfare services are so large a part. Mr Nigel Lawson has restated his own determination as Chancellor to cut taxes and has done so somewhat more uncompromisingly than some of his colleagues think wise. It is not simply a question of how far tax cutting is possible without public spending cuts which might affect standards of the welfare services. It is also now a question of whether the Treasury was or was not right in its assessment last year that without a very drastic curtailment of public spending taxes far from being cut, would actually have to rise. In the present scene, the questions of economy through structural change and through candle-end savings have become confused and so has the size of the economies likely to be needed.

This uncertainty is partly because ministers currently give the impression of working, acting and speaking in their separate departmental roles rather than collectively as strategists. With two exceptions, those who have spoken for the Government at Blackpool have added little to the sum of knowledge or to the party's sense of direction. The Home Secretary had something new to say in announcing his decisions on sterner penalties for violent crime, and they were well devised. Mr Norman Tebbit shows much clearer signs than other ministers of knowing where he is going in his handling of the unions and how to get there. But other departmental ministers are plainly in need of inspiration and of the long view.

It is up to the Prime Minister today to begin the process of providing both. Not all her own judgments have lately been impeccable. But she is the leading politician of our time and she now needs to facilitate the emergence of a broad-based leadership in the Cabinet in which she is backed by politicians who can be their own men, capable of adventurous and flexible thinking. It is a moment when the Government needs a new sense of direction. Mrs Thatcher's speech today should do much to reveal how far she appreciates the nature of the task before her.

EXOCETS IN THE GULF

If nothing else, the much-mooted delivery of five Super-Endur fighter-bombers from France to Iraq has succeeded in reminding the world that the Iran-Iraq war is still going on and is potentially a source of danger to many others beside the two protagonists.

The aircraft, according to no less an authority than President Saddam Hussein himself, have still not arrived in Iraq. But they have, it seems, left the base at Landivisau in Brittany where they had been kept until last week and where Iraqi pilots had been trained to fly and maintain them. According to some sources, they may be dismantled and sent by sea - presumably to Aqaba in Jordan, since Iran has effectively blocked access to Iraq through the Persian Gulf since the war began. It is precisely in order to break that blockade that Iraq has sought to acquire the aircraft which, as Britain has cause to remember, can be used to fire AM 39 Exocet missiles at sea-borne targets, with devastating effect.

Indeed, had those missiles not been used to sink British ships in the South Atlantic last year, there would perhaps not be the excitement there is now about the possibility of their use in the Gulf. Exocets, it should be recalled, have been used already in the Iran-Iraq war. Iraq is believed to have had about a hundred of them in stock when the war began, and has fired them both against tankers in the Gulf and against the city of Tehran. But they have not proved more than a nuisance to Iran, which - unlike Iraq - has been able to continue exporting oil through the Gulf and, largely for that reason, is now in a much more comfortable financial and economic position than its antagonist.

In the war of attrition which has developed, Iran now looks to have the longer wind. Iraq, which began the war three years ago looking for a quick victory against a foe apparently para-

lysed by revolutionary chaos, now finds its resources heavily overstretched in a trial of stamina with a larger and richer enemy determined to fight to the death and willing, apparently, to make unlimited sacrifices in the process. The Iraqi army has so far successfully withstood Iranian attempts to carry the war across the frontier, but the danger that Iraq will eventually collapse from sheer exhaustion, like Germany in 1918, is clearly real.

It is therefore not surprising that Iraq seeks by every means possible to break the stalemate. The Super-Endur, which President Saddam now says will be delivered by the end of this month, have been presented as such a means. From them, Exocets can be fired with a much better chance of penetrating anti-aircraft defences. With them, Iraq hopes to turn the tables on Iran by rendering unusable the Iranian oil terminal at Kharg Island - either by destroying the loading facilities at the terminal itself or by sinking supertankers on their way to it - or, at least, hopes by the threat of doing this to deter Iran from further attacks on Iraqi shipping and so to break the blockade.

France is willing to help in this enterprise because she shares at least some of Iraq's desperation at the way the war is going. The French economic stake in Iraq - believed to be close to eight billion dollars - is such that any outcome of the war involving a collapse of the Iraqi regime and repudiation of its debts is regarded in Paris as a disaster to be averted at almost any cost. But, the French argue, it is not just French economic interests that are at stake. An Iranian victory, and the establishment of a militant Shiite regime in Baghdad, would have incalculable effects throughout the region. At worst the entire Middle East oil supply could fall into the hands of fanatically anti-Western Muslim fundamentalists.

Other Western powers, while

sharing this concern, have grave doubts whether escalating the war in the Gulf can be the right way to meet it. They doubt the wisdom, let alone the legality, of helping Iraq to attack neutral shipping in the Gulf. They also doubt whether the Super-Endur will in fact give Iraq the capacity to cut off Iran's oil exports. Iran's air force, even though hampered by lack of key parts for its F14s and Phantoms, is still not to be written off completely, and even if the international supertankers were frightened away from Kharg Island, there is the possibility that they could be loaded at Sirri, near the mouth of the Gulf - thought to be out of Super-Endur range from Iraqi airfields - with small Iranian tankers running the gauntlet between there and Kharg. (Iraq is unlikely to have an Exocet for every Iranian cockle-boat.)

Ironically enough that is what France's allies hope rather than fear, for they would regard it as preferable to the likely Iranian response if Iraq did succeed in closing Kharg down altogether, which would be either to try and close the Straits of Hormuz, thereby cutting off all oil supplies from the Gulf, or to attack the oilfields of Iraq's Arab backers, notably Saudi Arabia, or both. Either of those acts would cause such grave disruption of the West's oil supplies that the United States would very probably have to intervene militarily to reverse the consequences. The world is not so short of crisis points and international tension that this scenario should be welcomed by anyone.

With luck, things will not go that far. At present France is going through various diplomatic contortions to try and ensure that, even when delivered, the Super-Endur does not have to be used. But all these really amount to trying to browbeat Ayatollah Khomeini into accepting a compromise with a regime that he has sworn to destroy. Experience scarcely justifies any optimism about that enterprise.

Hongkong rights and freedoms

From Mr John Walden

Sir, The letters from Sir William Keswick (October 1) and Mr Jack Perry (October 11) about Hongkong's future reflect a point of view rather widely held amongst those who trade into Hongkong and China but actually live somewhere else. This is that all that is needed to keep the coin jingling in his pocket.

Of course, everyone likes to make a quick buck and Sir William's "British merchant adventurers and nimble-witted Chinese" are no different. But to keep harping on maintaining Hongkong's prosperity and stability as if money and civil order were the only things that they care about is seriously to misjudge Hongkong people's concerns about their long-term future.

For a full year spokesmen of the Chinese, British and Hongkong governments have been publicly avowing their determination to maintain Hongkong's prosperity and stability up to and beyond 1997. Like Mr Jack Perry, most Hongkong people probably think that the Chinese can do it, even without British help. Yet they are still deeply apprehensive about 1997.

In fact, it seems to me that it is not the uncertainty about a prosperous and stable future that is causing confidence, money and people to desert Hongkong. It is a feeling of certainty, growing day by day in people's minds, that in 1997, or even before, authoritarian British colonial rule is going to be replaced by authoritarian Chinese Communist rule.

Hongkong people well know which they prefer, because more than a million of them have voluntarily left China to live in Hongkong since 1949. Many have died, or risked death, to get there.

Neither the British nor the Chinese Government has yet made any explicit statement indicating the position they propose to take in regard to the freedoms and civil rights now enjoyed by Hongkong citizens. Furthermore, the Hongkong Government has officially rejected a proposal that a referendum be eventually held to test the outcome of the negotiations will be acceptable to the people of Hongkong.

Such obtuseness over a matter of such fundamental human importance, cruelly serves to deepen Hongkong people's worries about their future and the future of their young children.

The vacuum in political leadership that an unimaginative attitude to public participation by the Hongkong Government in the running of Hongkong has helped to create has left the Hongkong people uniquely ill-prepared to help themselves in this predicament. It has increased the weight of responsibility falling on the British Government to protect their interest in the current negotiations.

The most important of these is the inviolability of their freedoms. It is simply not good enough to say, as Mr Edward Heath did, when visiting Hongkong recently, that Hongkong people should have no say in their future. Neither he nor any law-abiding British citizen has ever spent a night wondering if the Special Branch will knock at his door. No one has the right to deny that same peace of mind to the citizens of Hongkong.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN WALDEN,
John's College,
University of Hong Kong,
82 Pokfulam Road,
Hongkong,
October 12.

Churches in decay

From the Reverend Brian H. King

Sir, Clifford Longley's article of September 19 on the need for radical thinking for inner-city churches has wide implications.

This parish too suffers from "the tyranny of buildings". We have a very large 1930 church which, due to basic structural faults (known about since shortly after its completion), now needs a vast amount of money for repair and renovation.

The present congregation is anxious to solve the problem once and for all so that future worshippers will not be beset by the burden of a building they cannot afford to keep up. We should like to demolish the building and seek an alternative place of worship. However, our diocesan authorities tell us that without a church building the parish cannot exist and they would hesitate before licensing any other building.

Hanging over our heads also is the problem of insurance, for it is the Vicar and parochial church council who must foot the difference should public liability insurance cover be inadequate to meet the needs of a claim made.

It appears that the Church of England has no machinery for dealing with a lively parish with a redundant church building. But it would do well to realize that even lively congregations are only human and can eventually become so demoralized by abortive efforts to put things right that numbers dwindle and then redundancy does become a real threat.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN H. KING,
St Elizabeth's Vicarage,
266 Victoria Drive,
Eastbourne,
East Sussex,
September 30.

Fairness in sentencing policy

From Mr Anthony Lester, QC

Sir, Why should the murderer of a police officer or a prison officer normally expect to spend at least 20 years in prison whereas a police officer or a prison officer guilty of the murder of a prisoner will not normally face a 20-year minimum sentence?

Examples of murders in custody are happily very rare in this country. However, the equal protection of the law depends upon the principle that public servants and private persons are treated alike.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY LESTER,
2 Mare Court,
Temple, EC4,
October 13.

From Mr Keith Simpson

Sir, According to a report and a leading article in your paper today (October 12) it is proposed to alter the existing appeal system from the crown courts so as to permit the prosecution to appeal against the imposition of inadequate sentences to the Court of Appeal Criminal Division.

The object apparently is not to enable the Appeal Court to alter the sentence in question, but merely to give it the opportunity to pronounce, if it so wishes, on the inadequacy of that sentence and to give guidance on the appropriate sentence for the particular type of crime for subsequent instances of similar offences.

Such guidance is already given

quite often and if this is all that is to be achieved it will merely serve to increase the existing heavy burden on the Appeal Court for no perceptible benefit to the public.

The only justification for creating extra work of this sort would be to allow the Appeal Court to alter an existing sentence where it is plainly too lenient, just as it can now if the sentence is too severe.

I can see no logic in a system which permits a dissatisfied defendant to appeal and obtain a review of sentence by the higher court, but denies a similar right to a dissatisfied public whom the prosecution are presumed to represent.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH SIMPSON,
Harcourt Buildings,
Temple, EC4,
October 12.

From Mr R. E. Thomas

Sir, When, oh when, will we stop this ridiculous business of pretending that increasing penalties will deter criminals, when most of them are never detained?

What is wanted is a more efficient police force which, hopefully, will catch a higher percentage of wrongdoers. A good chance of being caught is the only deterrent.

Yours etc.
R. E. THOMAS,
10 Braybank,
Bray,
Meidenhead,
Berkshire,
October 12.

Youth custody

From Mrs Dora Belford and others

Sir, In the course of our work as criminal lawyers we have experienced a serious failing in the workings of the Criminal Justice Act 1982. On May 24, 1983, sections of that Act which pertain to the sentencing of offenders between the ages of 17 and 21 came into force. Under the Act a sentence of youth custody replaces imprisonment and borstal training.

However, such a sentence may only be passed if the court "is of the opinion that no other method of dealing with the offender is appropriate." If the court feels that the existing forms of non-custodial sentence are inappropriate, then it has no alternative but to pass a sentence of youth custody or a detention-centre order.

Before the Act came into force a court could suspend a period of imprisonment when dealing with an offender in the 17-21 age category. This form of sentence was a good alternative to an immediate term of imprisonment, as well as providing an effective form of preventive justice.

Since the coming into force of the

1982 Act the court has no equivalent power to suspend a term of youth custody, although the suspended sentence remains for adult offenders.

Theoretically, therefore, a judge, in sentencing an adult who is jointly charged with a young person, may pass a suspended sentence of imprisonment on the adult, but owing to this glaring lacuna in the law the judge would have no alternative but to pass an immediate custodial sentence upon the younger offender. Thus, a vital form of non-custodial sentence has been lost when dealing with young offenders. The result is that more young offenders than ever are in danger of losing their liberty.

We ask that, when Parliament reassembles later this month, careful consideration is given to widening the sentencing options for young people in order that the Government's overall intention to reduce the "prison" population may be met.

Yours faithfully,
DORA BELFORD,
GARETH REES,
J. N. TABATZNIK,
MICHAEL L. BOARDMAN,
11 South Square,
Gray's Inn, WC1,
October 5.

Regulating air fares

From Air-Vice Marshal Sir Brian Stanbridge

Sir, In reporting the Air Transport Users' Committee's proposals for a new system of flexible air fares (September 30) your Transport Editor added that it saw this "as a step towards deregulation of domestic air services". In fact we see it as part of an alternative "liberalisation" process which, we believe, is far better suited to the British air passengers' needs than the type of deregulation introduced in the USA.

The AUC fears that a complete free-for-all, with any airline able to fly on any route at any fare it chose, might be a step towards a British Airways monopoly. BA already flies half the domestic passengers in this country, six times the size of the biggest independent airline, and earns the bulk - 90 per cent - of its revenue from overseas routes, which will continue to be protected from unlimited competition.

Given this power base, whether or not it is privatised, it could easily undercut any competitor in Britain, putting Concorde on the shuttle routes, a stunt which trebled the fuel

bill for each flight, could be a hint of things to come.

The mere possibility of such competition is likely to make the independent airlines wary of investing the capital needed to expand their networks. Deregulation would thus have the opposite effect to that intended, and the passenger would be the true loser.

Nor is this the only problem, since some form of regulation is sure to continue in allocating landing rights at Heathrow and other crowded airports, and we would not want this done simply by the power of the purse, either. The purse, in the end, is the passenger's.

Our fares scheme would complement the policy of allowing increased but not unlimited competition on the main trunk routes by allowing true and prompt competition on pricing instead of needing every fare change to be approved by the Civil Aviation Authority. This is liberalisation and, we believe, the right way forward.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN STANBRIDGE,
Director General,
Air Transport Users' Committee,
129 Kingsway, WC2,
October 3.

Pricing gas

From Mr W. G. Jewers

Sir, Sir Ian Morrow (October 5) suggests that the British Gas Corporation's achievement in paying off loans and being for all practical purposes debt-free is the result of a highly principled policy.

This is not so. The repayment of some £2bn of debt between 1973 and 1980, the majority of which was the cost of converting the country to natural gas, reflects the benefits resulting from that investment. However, with the high real cost of interest, which unfortunately has been and is continuing to be such a drain on business finance, our costs, after allowing for the effect of interest, would now be higher if the debt had not been redeemed and the burden of the debt would still be with us.

This can be illustrated by comparing 1976/77, when the corporation's interest payments approached £200m and 1982/83, where interest provided a source of income after tax of £29m.

Domestic gas prices in this country are well below those almost anywhere else on the Continent and industrial gas prices compare very favourably with any Continental prices. At the same time we are doing all we can to reduce our non-gas costs, bearing in mind the higher prices we have to face for new gas supplies. This can be seen from the 1982/83 results, where the corporation exceeded the Government's performance target of a 5 per cent reduction in real terms in net trading costs in 1982/83 compared with 1980/81.

All this hardly suggests an exploitation of the market by a high selling price policy.

Yours faithfully,
W. G. JEWERS,
Managing Director, Finance,
British Gas Corporation,
Riverside House,
152 Grosvenor Road, SW1,
October 6.

Polytechnic courses

From Mr Terence Miller

Sir, May I comment on your report (October 5) of the belated recognition by H.M.I.s of the deficiencies - including Marxist bias - of two sociology courses at the polytechnic of North London?

"Bias" of various kinds in teaching at higher education level cannot, and in many cases should not, be avoided. "Attacks" on bias always produce astonished references to "academic freedom". The real iniquity lies in the marking of students' work in terms of adherence to, or departure from, the Marxist "party line".

During my time at PNL (1970-80) I tried to deal with this malaise, even, latterly, calling in all final examination papers in sociology. I recall engaging in a rather acid correspondence with some scandalized external examiners. (It is interesting to note that no one ever asked for the results of my investigation.)

The root of the trouble, and the reason for my inability to stop it, lies in the fact that among external examiners, and also among CNAAs (Council for National Academic Awards) course-validating teams - and particularly in the British Sociological Association - are to be found, in considerable strength, those to whom "correct" sociology is Marxist.

I am delighted to read that the Secretary of State is to investigate. I hope that his range will not be limited to PNL. Certainly the CNAAs should be included, but also those teacher-training institutions in which "sociology of education" and "sociology of knowledge" are, I believe, used as vehicles for Marxist indoctrination.

Yours truly,
TERENCE MILLER,
29 Wodehouse Terrace,
Falmouth,
Cornwall,
October 8.

Test of worth in judging equality

From the Bishop of Southwark

Sir, Over the past few years we have seen a mounting attack on the concept of equality, an attack which has been steadily supported by various contributors to the *The Times*. The latest examples of this have just appeared in the issue of October 11 in articles by David Hart and Roger Scruton.

In both cases the word equality is used in a general, undefined way as if we all knew and agreed on what it meant. At one point David Hart acknowledges that equality of opportunity is desirable, thereby qualifying his earlier statement that "equality is not only unobtainable but also undesirable". No mention is made of equality before the law, for instance.

The underlying assumption seems to be that equality means everyone earning exactly the same amount and adopting the same kind of lifestyle. Perhaps it does mean that for a few people. But it might help the debate forward if we could recognize that it does not mean anything as simplistic as that for most of us, and that for Christians at least, equality is about people's equal worth in God's eyes.

Because of this, we stand in a relationship to one another which requires of us some recognition of that equal status. The argument centres on what will reinforce and deepen a sense of responsibility for each other, as opposed to what will undermine and destroy it.

In a human family we instinctively recognize this. Children, however unequal their abilities, receive the same love and care from their parents and are made to feel their "equal" worth. It destroys family unity if the less able child is consistently treated less well and if there is no restraint on the able child's power to grab as much as possible for himself or herself.

In the Christian vocabulary we talk a lot about *koinonia*, or fellowship, rather than equality, and I think it could be helpful to see equality as an aspect of this fellowship or "belonging-together" of the human race, rather than pursuing equality as a goal in itself.

But this should not blind us to the recognition of our fundamental equality as human beings and the need to express that by practical measures to ensure that our fundamental human needs are equally met, and that the rich do not have the "right" to get even richer while the poor get even poorer, whether in the world as a whole or in our own country.

Yours sincerely,
RONALD SOUTHWARK,
Bishop of Southwark,
38 Teotling Bec Gardens,
Streatham, SW16,
October 12.

Correct labelling

From Sir Ian Gilmore, MP for Chesham & Amersham (Conservative)

Sir, "Labels in themselves", as you rightly say in your leading article, "The Chancellor's goal" (October 13), "do not matter one jot". But we may as well get them right, for you accuse me of having "tried desperately to pin some derogatory label on official policies and managed to come up with 'monetarist' and 'sound money'".

The desperation is yours not mine. The phrase "sound money" did not appear in my speech. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
IAN GILMORE,
House of Commons,
October 13.

Council reform

From Mr Oliver Stutchbury

Sir, For at least the third time since the 1939-1945 War our central Government has put the cart before the horse in the matter of local government reform. The mess is not caused by overlapping and wasteful authorities, it is caused by the arbitrary and incomprehensible way in which local government is financed. To try and deal with the former before the latter is to go about the matter the wrong way round.

One who resigned from the GLC and the Labour Party in 1976 in order to campaign (together with some thirty others) in the 1977 GLC elections on an "Abolish the GLC" ticket, may I plead with the present Government not to go ahead with its present proposals to abolish the GLC and metropolitan counties (to which end I am still totally committed) until it has made up its mind how local government is to be sensibly financed?

To go about its reform back to front will simply make the present muddle worse confounded. The only safe way forward is first of all, to get the provision of finance right.

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER STUTCHBURY,
The Mansion,
Shingle Street,
Woodbridge,
East Suffolk,
October 8.

Victorian values

From H. S. Hartwell

Sir, We were shown on television last week the demolition of yet another brick industrial chimney. This has become a ritual in which scant respect is paid to the skill and accomplishment of the Victorian craftsmen who built the stacks or of the engineers who designed them.

Should not some effort be made to preserve at least the worst of these structures of a technology now probably quite lost to us?

Yours truly,
H. S. HARTWELL,
Flossyfin,
Lunfair Clydogan,
Zampeter,
Dyfed,
October 7.

Investment and Finance

City Editor
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 888.0 down 8.1
FT 100 Index 81.04 down 0.34
FT All Share 431.98 down 5.46
Bargains: 19.695
Debtstream USM Leaders
Index 54.53 down 1.86
New York Dow Jones
Average 1,282.60 up 2.95
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones
Index 9,472.35 down 90.90
Hong Kong Hang Seng
Index 738.51 up 1.83
Amsterdam 151.9 down 0.4
Sydney AO Index 695.5 up 0.2
Frankfurt Commerzbank
Index 970.0 up 6.30
Brussels General Index
128.59 down 0.27
Paris CAC Index 141.0 up 0.3
Zurich SKA General 289.2 down 0.4

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.5000 down 40pts
Index 83.6 down 0.1
DM 3.9075 down 0.0275
FF 11.9450 down 0.0650
Yen 349.50 down 3.0
Dollar
Index 126.2 down 0.1
DM 2.6040
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4987
Dollar DM 2.6080
EUROPEAN
ECU 0.8632
SDR 0.707331

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates
Bank base rate 9
Finance houses base rate 10
Discount market loans week
fixed 9
3 month interbank 9 1/8-9 3/4
Euro-currency rates
3 month dollar 9 1/8-9 1/4
3 month DM 5 1/2-5 3/4
3 month FF 14 1/4-14 1/2
US rates
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9 1/2
Treasury long bond 10 1/2-10 3/4
ECB Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme 12
Average reference rate for
interest period September 7 to
October 4, 1983 inclusive:
9.719 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$397.50 pm \$398.65
close \$398.50 (\$265.50-265.90)
New York latest: \$397.80
Krugerrand (per coin):
\$408-410.50 (\$272.75-273.75)
Sovereigns (new):
\$93.25-94.25 (\$62.25-63)
*Excludes VAT

TODAY

Interims: Alibon & Sons,
Barr and Wallace Arnold Trust,
British Empire Securities and
General Trust, Hammonson
Property Investment and De-
velopment Corp., Lee Cooper
Group, Phoxia (London),
Prince of Wales Hotels,
Roberts Adlard, Scottish Heri-
table Trust, Thurgar Barrow,
UEI
Finals: Rosehaugh.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Robert M. Douglas Holdings,
Shenstone House, George
Road, Erdington, Birmingham
(noon).
Samuel Heath, Leopold Street,
Birmingham (10.00).
Jones Stroud, Grange Farm,
Totter, Birmingham (noon).
Peelers, Penns Hall Hotel,
Walmley, Sutton Coldfield
(noon).
Second Alliance Trust, Mead-
ow House, Reform Street,
Dundee (11.30).
Wynham Engineering,
Brownhills Hotel, Saunders
Road, Cardiff (noon).

NOTEBOOK

John Mowlem, the construction group, has increased pretax profits from £3.4m to £4.1m in the six months to June 30 compared with the same stage last year. Next year's profits will be helped by the award of a 40 per cent share of the £230m contract for a new airport in the Falklands. Page 16
Steel production in the public and private sectors averaged 322,200 tonnes a week in September, the highest since March last year and more than 42 per cent up on the depressed output of a year ago.
Last month's higher production was due largely to better output at some British Steel Corporation works, particularly at Scunthorpe. Better output last month boosted the nine-month weekly average to 288,800 tonnes against 281,000 a year ago.
Market report, page 20

Disappointment for Chancellor despite slight upward trend

Lower industrial output reinforces CBI doubts on recovery

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

The output of British industry fell in August, though the underlying trend remained slowly upward, according to official figures released yesterday.

This is disappointing news for the Government, only a day after Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, expressed optimism at the Conservative Party conference over the course of recovery. It will also reinforce industry's fears, voiced by the Confederation of British Industry again yesterday, that the upturn may not be sustainable.

Manufacturing output fell 1.1 per cent in August after a sharp increase in July. But higher production by the energy sector, including North Sea oil and gas, helped output in the production industries as a whole (defined as manufacturing plus energy) which fell by just 0.3 per cent.

A better guide to underlying trends than the monthly figures, which tend to move erratically, is what has happened in the latest three months. Manufacturing output was 1 per cent above its level in the previous three months and 2 per cent higher than a year earlier.

But Britain's factories are still producing only 3.5 per cent more than they were at the trough of the recession in early 1981 and 15 per cent less than in 1979 before the downturn.

Production industries as a whole, helped by the booming energy sector, have fared better. Output was 2.5 per cent above its level a year earlier, and a rise of 1 per cent in the latest three months, and 6.5 per cent above its 1981 nadir. But it remains nearly 8 per cent below the 1979 peak more than two years after the upturn is supposed to have begun.

The construction industry,

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT seasonally adjusted 1980 = 100

	Production industries	Manufacturing
1979	107.0	108.4
1980	100.0	100.0
1981	98.1	93.4
1982	97.1	94.4
1983 Q1	98.0	94.1
Q2	98.8	93.6
Q3	98.3	92.9
Q4	99.5	94.4
1983 June	98.8	94.3
July	101.5	98.4
Aug	101.2	95.3
3-month change %	+0.8	+1.1
Source: CSO		

which set a cracking pace last year, is again in the doldrums, with output down 3 per cent between the first and second quarters. This is particularly

worrying for the Government since construction provides a large number of jobs both directly and indirectly through fueling demand for household goods and services.

Mr Nigel Lawson told Conservatives at Blackpool on Wednesday that he expected the economy as a whole - which includes the more prosperous service sector - to grow by up to 3 per cent this year compared with the 2 per cent prediction made in the Budget. There were no signs that the recovery was petering out, he said.

But yesterday Sir Campbell Fraser, president of the CBI, said industrialists were lowering their expectations of growth this year and there were worries about the outlook for the upturn next year.

"There are signs of recovery. Prospects, albeit patchy, look better than for some time. But sustained recovery is by no means guaranteed," Sir Camp-

bell told West Midlands CBI members.

Higher commodity prices and "the failure of interest rates to fall as fast as we hoped" have dampened industry's optimism, he added.

The sluggish growth of industrial output can be largely attributed to Britain's poor trade performance. Exports have been stagnant while imports have picked up sharply, benefiting from the consumer boom and restocking by British industry.

Industries performing best in recent months have included those in the consumer sector - notably electrical engineering which comprises companies producing washing machines, computers, and motor vehicles.

The output of consumer goods industries as a whole is only 2 per cent higher than in the spring of 1981, less than half the increase in household spending.

City Editor's Comment

A consensus built on compromise

In the labyrinthine world of international trade negotiations, no corner is more obscure than export finance subsidies for capital goods and big projects. But those prepared to cut through the complexities of the new consensus can draw a sigh of relief that peace has broken out in one of the potentially most explosive and expensive areas of reverse protectionism.

They will also find that, as with so many of these bureaucratic compromises, the potential for distortion and ultimately corruption on discretionary subsidies remains high.

If it was just a matter of governments trying to clinch export deals by offering uneconomic credit terms, the matter might easily be resolved.

The problems really start because different interest rates prevail in different countries and, more important, on different currencies.

In theory, the interest rate differentials (reflected in forward currency markets) should match the likely future movements of currencies against each other. But as any exporter or currency dealer knows, real life is not like that.

Hence countries with high interest rate currencies, like France or Italy, argue that they are at a disadvantage in exporting, while countries with low-interest currencies (LIRCs), like Germany and Japan, cry cheat if high interest rates subsidised.

In practice it was the Americans who wanted to set minimum interest rates more in line with market rates to cut the public spending involved in subsidies. This argument threatened to lead to a complete breakdown after the old consensus ran out earlier this year.

The main point, therefore, is that a new consen-

sus has been reached, removing the threat of a widely expensive and self-defeating interest subsidy war.

When it comes to detail, as in all good international canteens, everyone can claim to have won. The minimum interest rates for high-interest currencies have been cut, pleasing the French. But future rates are now to be regulated automatically by a system worked out by the OECD secretariat on the basis of changes in market rates on the IMF's basket of currencies.

What this means is that, unless world interest rates fall meanwhile, the small cuts agreed to operate from October will be eliminated as soon as the first automatic adjustment is made in January, leading to progressive cuts in subsidies.

In any case, countries like France and Italy will still be able to offer large nominal interest rate subsidies.

But LIRC nations can still offer lower nominal rates.

The advantage depends on the importers' willingness to take a risk on these currencies not rising to offset their interest rate advantage.

On the face of it, as one big British exporter found on clinching an Eastern block deal, there could be a big advantage in British exporters quoting in marks or yen especially when the importing developing country has a big mark of yen income to remove any currency risk.

As Japan and Germany are huge importers of primary commodities, this applies to many Third World countries. So we may well see a progressive switch to yen and marks as international trading currencies, something that will greatly annoy both these cautious countries.

Licensed dealers go for self-regulation

By Philip Robinson

The National Association of Licensed Dealers and Investment Managers is set to become the first City organisation for a generation to be given government backing to regulate itself.

The association, formed two years ago to help protect investors from ill-regulated investment advisers, has an application before the Department of Trade and Industry to become a "recognised authority". This would mean that it would have complete control over its members who would no longer require a licence, issued by the department, to deal in securities.

The department will continue to license those who do not wish to become association members.

The department, which has sole discretion over granting licences, has been more vigilant since the disasters of three licensed dealers over the past three years. The most spectacular was Norton Warburg, a member of the old Licensed Dealers Association - out of which Nadin grew. The firm had its licence renewed by the department a short time before collapsing. The investors whom it advised lost everything.

The number of licensed dealers in the country is estimated at between 500 and 600. Of Nadin's 250 members, about half are licensed dealers. The rest of its members include those who think that changes in the investor protection rules may well require them to hold a dealer's licence.

The association has just produced criteria for eligibility for membership, and also a code of conduct, a structure to govern branches of the code and rules on the way clients' money is to be kept and on how the individual financial resources of the companies are to be maintained.

The rules and code will be put to the vote for approval at the group's annual meeting in London on November 11.

It is understood that the rules require clients' money to be maintained separately from a firm's financial resources. Rules exist to cover the three separate relationships which firms may have with clients: as agents, principal or discretionary investment manager.

An insurance policy taken out by the individual firm as part of its membership of the association will protect investors against negligence or fraud.

The main point of the new agreement is a fully automatic adjustment of interest rates every six months, starting in January.

The new deal will not only boost export sales, but will also

mean a large saving in public expenditure. The interest rate subsidy, which the Treasury pays banks to compensate for differences between market and consensus rates, will be "very greatly reduced" over the next three years.

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Spurs day at the Stock Exchange with brokers sporting club scarves (Photograph: John Manning)

Spurs tackle the market

By Michael Clark

Tottenham Hotspur Football Club almost kicked off its stock market debut with an own goal yesterday as the shares quickly slipped to a discount.

Not even the presence of such stars as Ossie Ardiles and Gareth Crooks could help the professional market stars who had been hoping to make a quick and highly profitable killing from the North London club's decision to become the first fully quoted Football League team.

In the event, the 3.8 million shares offered a 100p a time opened at 106p, but quickly retreated to 94p - a 6p discount - as a big seller of 100,000 shares appeared. Dealers estimated that over 1.5 million shares - nearly half of the entire issue - had changed hands by the close of business last night.

As a result the price staged a successful rally to close at 101p

WALL STREET

stock on a 3-for-2 basis, was up 1 1/2 at 68. General Motors was up 1 1/4 at 77 1/2 and Chrysler 1 at 31 1/2.

With the blue chips largely ahead, led by IBM, at 133 1/2, up 1, most downward pressure on the Dow Index was coming from Union Carbide, off 1/2, at 66 1/2, Minnesota Mining, off 1/2, at 85 1/2, United Technologies, off 1/2, at 38 1/2, American Express, off 1/2, at 38 1/2.

KN Energy was down by 2 1/2 at 42 1/2.

Car shares were buoyant.

Ford, which declared a larger dividend for the fourth quarter than for the third and split its

shares was up by about 1 1/2 points after slipping from an early gain of more than 4 points.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up by about 1 1/2 points after slipping from an early gain of more than 4 points.

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COATS PATONS PLC

Interim Results

Unaudited results for January/June 1983 and the comparative figures for 1982 are as follows:-

	Jan/June 1983	Jan/June 1982	Year 1982
Turnover	401.7	394.0	856.2
Trading profit before charging depreciation	47.1	39.7	102.3
Less: Depreciation	9.1	8.3	16.8
Trading Profit	38.0	31.4	85.5
Interest and other charges	7.1	8.9	18.5
Profits of associated companies	38.9	22.5	67.0
Investment and other income	1.4	1.5	5.0
Profits before taxation	1.5	2.0	4.9
Taxation	33.8	26.0	76.9
Profits after taxation	12.9	10.2	31.0
Investment grants	20.9	15.8	45.9
Profit after taxation	0.2	0.2	0.4
Interest of minority shareholders	21.1	16.0	46.3
Extraordinary losses	2.2	2.2	5.8
Profit before extraordinary items	18.9	13.8	40.5
Extraordinary losses	6.0	2.2	14.9
Profit earned for ordinary shareholders	12.9	11.6	25.6
Ordinary dividends	4.2	3.9	11.6
Profit retained	8.7	7.7	14.0
Earnings per ordinary share of 25p	6.3p	5.0p	14.6p
US Dollar rate of exchange used - Dollars per £	1.58	1.70	1.62

Sales at \$401.7m compare with \$394.0m in 1982. Sales are not recorded in 1983 for Venezuela which is now an associate. This change, together with the disposal and closure programme in diversifications, leaves sales value 4% ahead of 1982 for current business. This increase is attributed to OECD exchange movements. Volume was held overall. Prices have moved ahead in most parts of the world but the sharp effect of South American currency devaluations, when expressed in Sterling, represents a reduction in the value of our sales in South America equivalent to 3% of total Group sales.

Trading profits at £38.0m were 21% up on 1982 £31.4m with margins at 9% compared with 8%. OECD exchange rate movements added £3.1m to profits.

Interest charges were down at £17.1m compared with 1982 principally due to the improvement in gearing achieved in 1982.

Pre-tax profits of £33.8m were 30% up on the first half of 1982. The results recorded in all regions, excepting South America which was down 25%, were considerably improved and continued the highly satisfactory trends that we forecast for our various activities. The severe downturn in profits in South America, which included some loss of volume but not market share, reflects the action taken by the governments of the South American countries in their attempts to resolve their external payments difficulties through devaluation of economic activity. The financial base of our businesses in the region is satisfactory under prevailing circumstances.

The rate of tax at 38% is lower than the provision for January/June 1982 and is the rate that we expect for the full year.

Profit before taxation in the current cost accounts reduces to £17.2m (1982 pre-tax historical £26.0m, pre-tax current cost £8.6m).

Net debt compared with shareholders' and minority funds is expected to be 29% (1982 26%) at the end of 1983.

Extraordinary losses at £6.0m are about half of the level that we anticipate for the year as a whole. These losses represent the costs which are being incurred during the period arising from reorganisation and closure programmes in the U.K. and Europe.

Trading conditions are encouraging in all regions other than South America. During periods of high inflation and devaluation South American profits have a much greater effect on our July/December results than they do in January/June. As these are down some 25%, overall Group results for the second half of 1983 will be lower than those for the second half of 1982. Nevertheless, if present trends in the U.K., U.S.A. and Australia continue, our overall performance for the year should be satisfactory.

An interim dividend of 1.5p per share (1982 1.4p) will be paid on 30th December, 1983, to ordinary shareholders on the register on 11th November, 1983.

US steps in after big run on bank

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The US Government has saved the First National Bank of Midland, in the largest oil-producing region of west Texas, after it reported a string of losses on energy-related loans which triggered a big run on deposits beginning in late August.

Farnell to expand as profits jump

By Vivien Goldsmith

Farnell Electronics the Leeds-based electronic equipment manufacturer, has produced a shining set of half-time figures with profits up by more than 50 per cent from £4.5m to almost £7m.

Turnover during the six months increased by 40 per cent from £19.4m to £27.1m and the company is expanding with the enlargement of the factory at Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire. A smaller factory is being built on the same site and 8,000 sq ft of storage space has been bought in Wetherby to allow the present factory to extend its manufacturing operation.

The dividend of 1.2p is 60 per cent up on last year's interim. This increase is partly aimed at equalizing the two

Farnell Electronics
Half-year to 31.7.83
Pretax profit £6.97m (£4.52m)
Stated earnings 5.4p (3.5p)
Turnover £27.08m (£19.42m)
Net interim dividend 1.2p (0.75p)
Share price 320. Yield 0.3p

dividend payments. Last year, the payments were 0.75p and 1.25p.

The company attributes the profit figures to the continuing predominance of the more lucrative small quantity orders for development and production and the benefits of last year's investment in buildings and production equipment.

The company manufactures 500 products related to data processing, telecommunications and measuring equipment.

Carrian liquidator expects more Hongkong collapses

The liquidator of Carrian Investments expects corporate collapses in Hongkong to continue for some time.

Mr Alan Hann said in an interview with *International Accounting Bulletin* that insolvency would occur not only in property and banking but across the board. "We expect a boom in insolvency and investigation work."

In Hongkong, financial markets and banks suspended activities yesterday after the Royal Observatory raised the signal for the approaching Typhoon Joe.

THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER FOR SALE AND THE STOCK DESCRIBED BELOW IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE DIRECT FROM THE BANK OF ENGLAND. OFFICIAL DEALINGS IN THE STOCK ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE ARE EXPECTED TO COMMENCE ON FRIDAY, 14TH OCTOBER 1983.

PARTICULARS OF AN ISSUE OF £750,000,000 2½ per cent INDEX-LINKED TREASURY STOCK, 2020

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS:

Amount paid on issue £30.00 per cent
Amount payable on Monday, 7th November 1983 £30.00 per cent
Amount payable on Monday, 12th December 1983 £31.50 per cent
INTEREST PAYABLE HALF-YEARLY ON 16TH APRIL AND 16TH OCTOBER

1. The Stock is an investment falling within Part II of the First Schedule to the Trustee Investments Act 1961. Application has been made to the Council of the Stock Exchange for the Stock to be admitted to the Official List.

2. The whole of the Stock has been issued to the Bank of England on 12th October 1983 at a price of £31.50 per cent. The amount payable on 7th November 1983 will be £30.00 per cent and the amount payable on 12th December 1983 will be £31.50 per cent.

3. The principal of and interest on the Stock will be a charge on the National Loans Fund, with recourse to the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.

4. The Stock will be registered at the Bank of England or at the Bank of Ireland, Belfast, and will be transferable, in multiples of one penny, by instrument in writing in accordance with the Stock Transfer Act 1963. Transfers will be free of stamp duty.

5. If not previously redeemed under the provisions of paragraph 14, the Stock will be repaid on 16th April 2020. The value of the principal on repayment will be related, subject to the terms of this notice, to the movement during the life of the Stock, of the United Kingdom General Index of Retail Prices maintained by the Department of Employment, or any index which may replace that index for the purposes of this notice, such movement being indicated by the index figure issued monthly and subsequently published in the *London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazette*.

6. For the purposes of this notice, the index figure applicable to any month will be the index figure issued seven months prior to the relevant month and relating to the month before that prior month; "month" means calendar month; and the index ratio applicable to any month will be equal to the index figure applicable to that month divided by the index figure applicable to October 1983.

7. The amount due on repayment, per £100 nominal of Stock, will be £100 multiplied by the index ratio applicable to the month in which repayment takes place. This amount, expressed in pounds sterling to four places of decimals rounded to the nearest figure below, will be announced by the Bank of England not later than the business day immediately preceding the date of the penultimate interest payment.

8. Interest will be payable half-yearly on 16th April and 16th October. Income tax will be deducted from payments of more than £5 per annum. Interest warrants will be transmitted by post.

9. The first interest payment will be made on 16th April 1984 at the rate of £1.1138 per £100 nominal of Stock.

10. Each subsequent half-yearly interest payment will be at a rate, per £100 nominal of Stock, of £1.25 multiplied by the index ratio applicable to the month in which the payment falls due.

11. The rate of interest for each interest payment other than the first, expressed as a percentage in pounds sterling to four places of decimals rounded to the nearest figure below, will be announced by the Bank of England not later than the business day immediately preceding the date of the previous interest payment.

12. If the index is revised to a new base after the Stock is issued, it will be necessary, for the purposes of the preceding paragraphs, to calculate and use a notional index figure in substitution for the index figure applicable to the month in which the actual index figure would have been relevant. The calculation by the Bank of England of the amounts of principal and/or interest payable on the basis of a notional index figure shall be conclusive and binding upon all stockholders. No subsequent adjustment to such amounts will be made in the event of subsequent revision of the index figure on the old base for the month on which the revised index is based and dividing the product by the new base figure for the same month. This procedure will be used for each occasion on which a revision is made during the life of the Stock.

13. If the index is not published for a month for which it is relevant for the purposes of this notice, the Bank of England, after appropriate consultation with the relevant Government Department, will publish a substitute index figure which shall be an estimate of the index figure which would have been applicable to the month of payment, and such substitute index figure shall be used for all purposes for which the actual index figure would have been relevant. The calculation by the Bank of England of the amounts of principal and/or interest payable on the basis of a substitute index figure shall be conclusive and binding upon all stockholders. No subsequent adjustment to such amounts will be made in the event of subsequent publication of the index figure for the month for which the substitute index figure was used.

14. If any change should be made to the coverage or the base calculation of the index which, in the opinion of the Bank of England, constitutes a fundamental change in the index which would be materially detrimental to the interests of stockholders, Her Majesty's Treasury will publish a notice in the *London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazette* immediately following the announcement by the relevant Government Department of the change, informing stockholders and offering them the right to require Her Majesty's Treasury to redeem their stock. For the purposes of this paragraph, repayment to stockholders who exercise this right will be effected, on a date to be chosen by Her Majesty's Treasury, not later than seven months from the last month of publication of the old index. The amount of principal due on repayment and of any interest which has accrued will be calculated on the basis of the index ratio applicable to the month in which repayment takes place. A notice setting out the administrative arrangements will be sent to stockholders at their registered address by the Bank of England at the appropriate time.

15. Until payment in full has been made and a completed registration form submitted to the Bank of England, the Stock will be represented by letters of allotment.

16. Payment in full may be made at any time prior to 12th December 1983 but no discount will be allowed on such payment. Interest may be charged on a day-to-day basis on any overdue amount which may be accepted at a rate equal to the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate for seven day deposits in sterling ("LIBOR") plus 1 per cent per annum. Such rate will be determined by the Bank of England by reference to market quotations, on the due date for the relevant payment, for LIBOR obtained from such source or sources as the Bank of England shall consider appropriate.

17. Letters of allotment may be split into denominations of multiples of £100 on written request received by the Bank of England, New Issues, Watling Street, London, EC4M 9AA, or by any of the Branches of the Bank of England, on any date not later than 8th December 1983. Such requests must be signed and must be accompanied by the letters of allotment (but a letter cannot be split if any instalment payment is overdue).

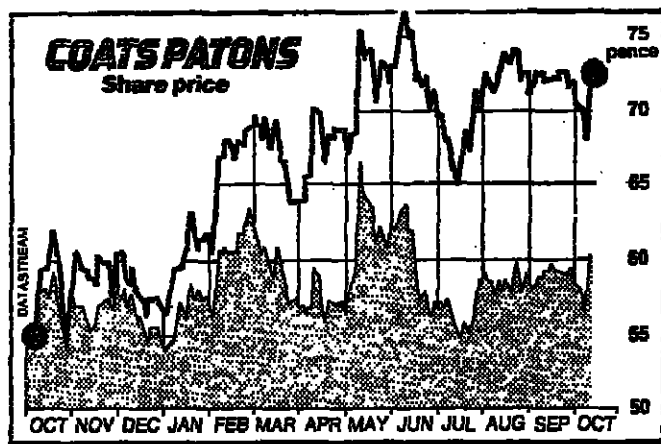
18. Letters of allotment must be surrendered for registration, accompanied by a completed registration form, when the final instalment is paid, unless payment in full has been made before the due date. In which case they must be surrendered for registration not later than 12th December 1983.

19. Copies of this notice may be obtained at the Bank of England, New Issues, Watling Street, London, EC4M 9AA, or at any of the Branches of the Bank of England, or at the Glasgow Agency of the Bank of England, 28 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, G1 2ER; at the Bank of Ireland, Marine Buildings, 1st Floor, 20 Colander Street, Belfast, BT1 5BN; at Mullens & Co., 15 Moorgate, London, EC2R 6AN; or at any office of the Stock Exchange in the United Kingdom.

BANK OF ENGLAND
LONDON
12th October 1983

Why gold relief may be short-lived

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK • edited by Michael Prest



what investors believe, or is gold seriously overvalued?

Coats Patons

Coats Patons
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £33.8m (£26m)
Stated earnings 88p (6p)
Turnover £401.7m (£384m)
Net interim dividend 1.5p (1.4p)
Share price 72p
Dividend payable 11.11.83

Timing has played a large part in the apparently impressive profits performance of textile group Coats Patons.

Over the past five years static earnings resulted from increased competition in a period when the industrial customer base was dwindling.

That pushed the management into a restructuring of production facilities, particularly in Britain and Europe. Money was also pumped into the Australian and North American businesses. The programme is just about complete and has started producing significant benefits.

That is just as well, because current figures show a 25 per

1982's level of £76.9m pretax. The management must be breathing a sigh of relief that it has successfully bridged what could have been a very sticky year.

Mowlem

John Mowlem and Co.
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £4.1m (£3.4m)
Stated earnings 11.5p (11.3p)
Turnover £158m (£138m)
Net interim dividend 2.2p (2.1p)
Share price 186p down 2p

Continuing uncertainty over the Government's public spending plans casts a cloud over the future of the John Mowlem group, despite an otherwise promising start to the year.

First - half pretax profits to June 30 were up to £4.1m from £3.4m at the same stage last year.

The improvement was achieved on a turnover which rose from £138m to £158m. It was helped by a turnaround in the group's Australian associate company which made a pretax profit of £500,000 against a loss of £100,000 at the comparable stage last year after problems with a construction project in Fiji.

The good news for Mowlem investors is the award of a 40 per cent share of the £230m contract to build an airport in the Falklands.

At the same time, Mowlem will reap the benefits from its 20 per cent share of a £300m (£200m) construction contract with the US Navy. There is also the welcome prospect of new road construction orders.

The shares were down by 2p at 186p on publication of the results yesterday, despite an improved interim dividend of 2.2p against 2.1p last time.

The group is capable of more than the £8.5m achieved at the final stage last year, but in the longer run the Chancellor may be the decisive figure.

Empire Stores

Empire Stores (Bradford)
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax loss £668,000 (£1.98m)
Stated loss 2.04p (8.08p)
Turnover £73.9m (£68.1m)
Net interim dividend nil (nil)
Share price 66p

Empire Stores (Bradford) seems to have emerged with the best of both worlds despite the Monopolies Commission's block on the takeover bid from Great Universal Stores.

Empire's main problem has always been its inability to contain or collect bad debts. At one point the City was talking of the £37m Gus bid as a rescue.

The talk now is all about recovery.

Despite the Government insisting that Gus reduce its Empire shareholding from 29.9 per cent to 9.9 per cent by January 1985, an agreement on a "knowhow" deal allows Gus to help Empire in the areas of recruitment, bad debt and general systems control.

Yesterday Mr John Gratwick, Empire's chairman, unveiled interim figures which cut losses from £1.9m to £668,000 for the 28 weeks to August 13.

There is no half-time dividend again, but Empire should declare a profit by the end of the year and pay a small dividend.

Gus's support begins in earnest next year. If the recovery continues the expertise should be able to lift the Empire share price considerably.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

F. W. Thorpe
Year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £222,000 (£851,000)
Stated earnings 16.3p (12.5p)
Turnover £6.1m (£5m)
Net dividend 3p (2.42p)

Photo-me International
Year to 30.4.83
Pretax profit £138,000 (£2.6m)
Stated earnings 68.76p (58.98p)
Turnover £38.8m (£31.8m)
Net dividend 9.45p (same)

Bellair Cosmetics
Half-year to 30.4.83
Pretax loss £142,000 (£142,000)
Loss per share 5.43p (5.52p)
Turnover £363,000 (£1.1m)
Net dividend None (same)

C. H. Pearce & Sons
Year to 32.5.83
Pretax profit £2.8m (£2.7m)
Stated earnings 165.6p (207p)
Turnover £236.3m (£29.3m)
Net dividend 14.75p (14p)

Office and Electronic Machines
Half-year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £1.2m (£1.1m)
Stated earnings 11.32p (10.61p)
Turnover £19.2m (£12.8m)
Net interim dividend 2.5p (same)

John Saunders
Year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £988,000 (£588,000)
Stated earnings 16.7p (14.9p)
Turnover £10.3m (£7.4m)
Net dividend 1.5p (1p)

Highland Electronics Group
Year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £507,000 (£145,000)
Stated earnings 33.19p (6.65p)
Turnover £9.4m (£8.9m)
Net dividend 1.5p (1p)

Druck Holdings
Year to 30.6.83
Pretax profit £21m (£21,000)
Stated earnings 10.6p (6.7p)
Turnover £4.2m (£2.9m)
Net dividend 2.6p (1p)

Time Products
Year to 31.7.83
Pretax profit £31,000 (loss £1.7m)
Turnover £22.1m (£24.1m)
Net interim dividend None

Clive Discount Holdings
Net interim dividend 1.4p (1.3p)

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES	UNIT	PRICE
Coffee, arabica, per 100 lbs	£/cwt	67.50
Cocoa, per 100 lbs	£/cwt	37.50
Gold, per 100 gms	£/oz	375.00
Oil, per 100 gals	£/bbl	25.00
Silver, per 100 gms	£/oz	10.00
Wheat, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Yield: 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00

COMMODITY FUTURES MARKET	UNIT	PRICE
Oil, per 100 gals	£/bbl	25.00
Wheat, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Yield: 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00

LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL	UNIT	PRICE
Gold, per 100 gms	£/oz	375.00
Silver, per 100 gms	£/oz	10.00
Wheat, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Yield: 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE	UNIT	PRICE
Copper, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Wheat, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Yield: 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00

COOPER HIGH GRADE	UNIT	PRICE
Copper, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Wheat, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Yield: 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00

COOPER LOW GRADE	UNIT	PRICE
Copper, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Wheat, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Yield: 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00

COOPER MEDIUM GRADE	UNIT	PRICE
Copper, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Wheat, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Yield: 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00

COOPER STANDARD	UNIT	PRICE
Copper, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Wheat, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Yield: 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00

COOPER SPECIAL	UNIT	PRICE
Copper, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Wheat, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Yield: 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00

COOPER PREMIUM	UNIT	PRICE
Copper, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Wheat, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Yield: 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00

COOPER ULTRA	UNIT	PRICE
Copper, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Wheat, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Yield: 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00

COOPER PLATINUM	UNIT	PRICE
Copper, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Wheat, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Yield: 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00

COOPER DIAMOND	UNIT	PRICE
Copper, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Wheat, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Yield: 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00

COOPER EMERALD	UNIT	PRICE
Copper, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Wheat, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Yield: 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00

COOPER SAPPHIRE	UNIT	PRICE
Copper, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Wheat, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Yield: 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00

COOPER JEWELLERY	UNIT	PRICE
Copper, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Wheat, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Yield: 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00

COOPER GEMS	UNIT	PRICE
Copper, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Wheat, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Yield: 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00

COOPER RUBY	UNIT	PRICE
Copper, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Wheat, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Yield: 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00

COOPER PEARL	UNIT	PRICE
Copper, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Wheat, per 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00
Yield: 100 gals	£/bbl	15.00

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT APPEARS AS A MATTER OF RECORD ONLY AND IT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER OR INVITATION TO PURCHASE ANY SECURITIES



Midland Bank plc

Midland Bank plc announces that it has filed a registration statement incorporating a preliminary prospectus with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission relating to possible issues through a U.S. finance company subsidiary (Midland American Capital Corporation) of loan capital in the United States.

The registration covers issues up to U.S. \$400-million which will be guaranteed on a subordinated basis by Midland Bank plc.

The decision by the Midland to proceed with any issue will be subject, *inter alia*, to review and comment on the registration statement and preliminary prospectus by the Securities and Exchange Commission and to market conditions then prevailing in the United States.

Copies of the registration statement, which contains information relating to the Group not previously published, may be obtained from:-

The Secretary,
Midland Bank plc,
Foultry,
London, EC2P 2BX.

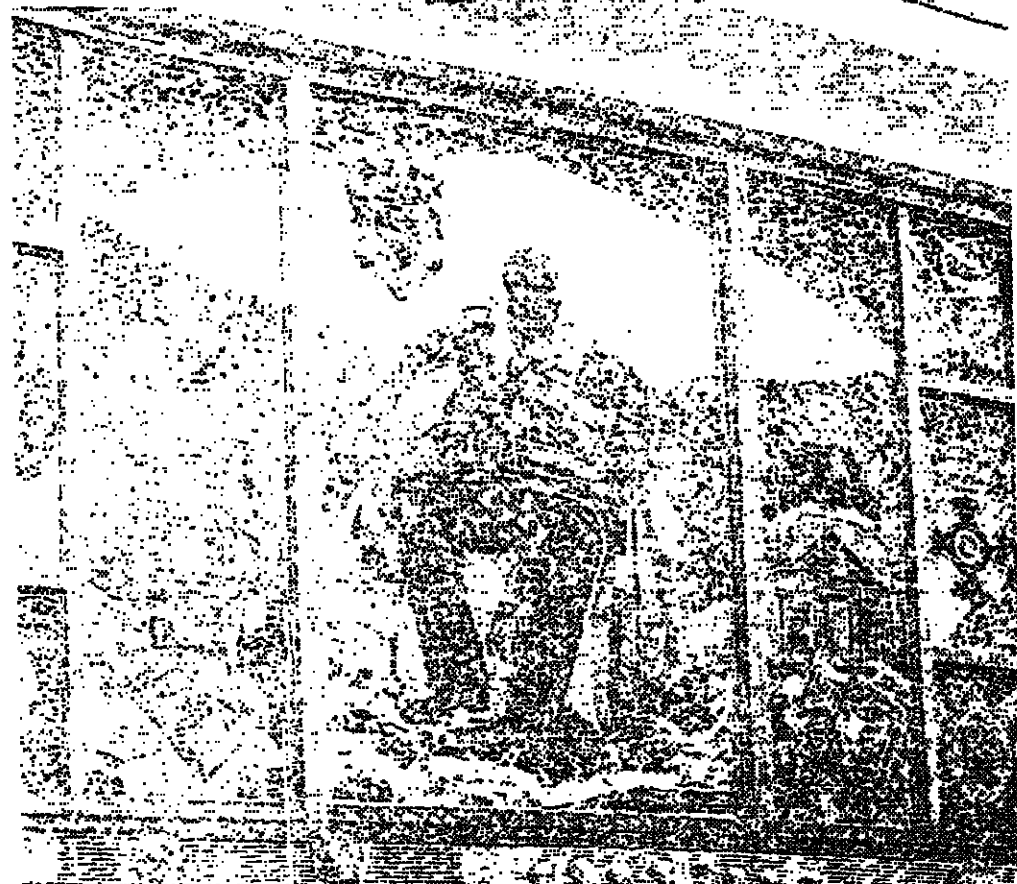
Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCI	9%
Chubb Bank	9%
Consolidated Crd	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

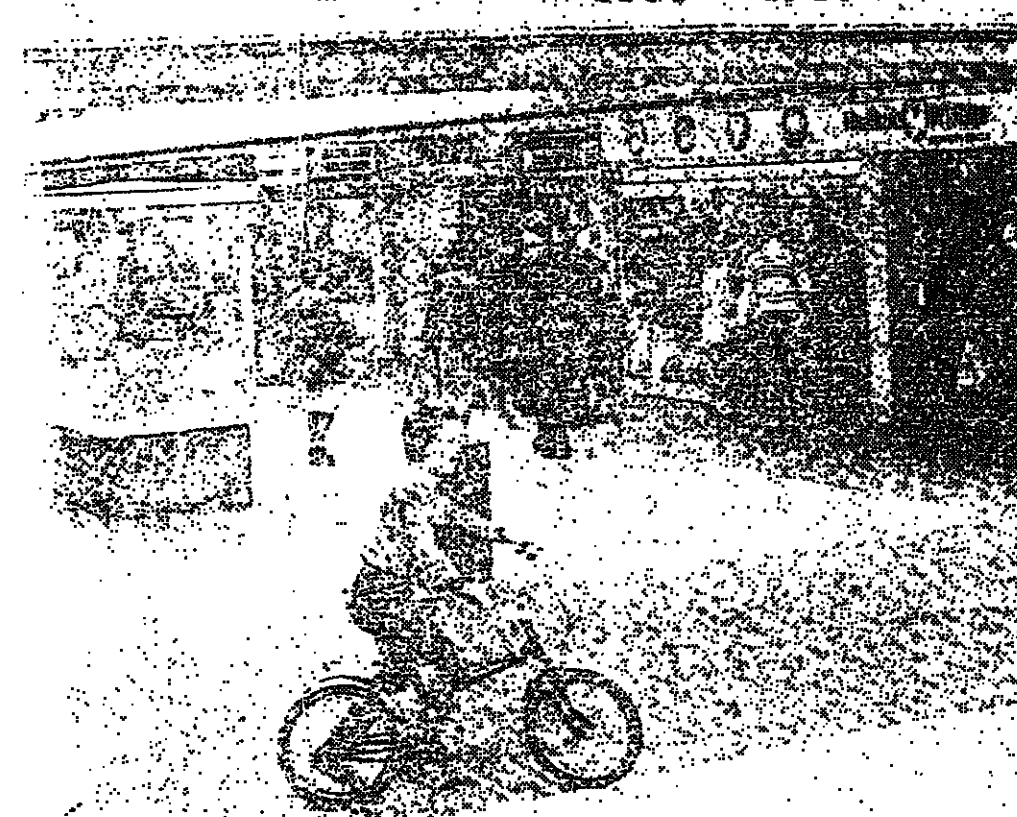
† Base rate on request of member
£10,000, 6m: £10,000 up to
£20,000, 12m: £20,000 up to
£50,000, 18m: £50,000 up to
£100,000, 24m: £100,000 up to
£200,000, 36m: £200,000 up to
£500,000, 48m: £500,000 up to
£1,000,000, 60m: £1,000,000 up to
£2,000,000, 72m: £2,000,000 up to
£5,000,000, 84m: £5,000,000 up to
£10,000,000, 96m: £10,000,000 up to
£20,000,000, 108m: £20,000,000 up to
£50,000,000, 120m: £50,000,000 up to
£100,000,000, 132m: £100,000,000 up to
£200,000,000, 144m: £200,000,000 up to
£500,000,000, 156m: £500,000,000 up to
£1,000,000,000, 168m: £1,000,000,000 up to
£2,000,000,000, 180m: £2,000,000,000 up to
£5,000,000,000, 192m: £5,000,000,000 up to
£10,000,000,000, 204m: £10,000,000,000 up to
£20,000,000,000, 216m: £20,000,000,000 up to
£50,000,000,000, 228m: £50,000,000,000 up to
£100,000,000,000, 240m: £100,000,000,000 up to
£200,000,000,000, 252m: £200,000

Dudley

The metropolitan borough is in the heartland of the West Midlands—the Black Country. Arthur Osman reports on the fight for recovery from the recession.



WINSTON S. CHURCHILL
1874 - 1965



The proud, brooding figure of Winston Churchill flanked by Big Ben and other symbols in fine mosaics dominates the shopping precinct in Dudley. It speaks for the town's resilience as well.

The burden of history lies heavily on Dudley. But, beyond the old town, clustering at the foot of the mainly fourteenth century castle, which is conspicuous for miles on its hill above the chimneys and urban clutter, an industrial and small ecological renaissance is gathering pace.

As the senior town of the Black Country, Dudley is seeking to regain its pre-eminence and prosperity of a century ago with vigorous efforts in job creation. At the same time, it is starting to repair 200 years of industrial ravages to its landscape, a task important to its self-esteem.

Queen Victoria is said to have ordered her carriage blinds to be lowered as the royal train passed the industrial squalor of the town, from which the iron sinews of her Empire were being shaped.

At about the same time, the prestigious *Edinburgh Review*, in a note on the town, said: "The very ground seems on fire, like the representations of Pandemonium in an old edition of *Paradise Lost*."

A few forged fortunes from the blazing furnaces among the wretched homes of the poor, the pit banks and the engine houses. There was no discrimination when hovel or house sank into old mine workings. As many a local graveyard shows, cholera decimated at random.

A kinder, more recent evaluation said it was surprising that an industrial town such as Dudley had saved so much from the past, yet indicated so much for the future. This despite the stern face presented by the numerous non-conformist Black Country chapels,

which seem to glower and growl with disapproval at every turn. But, despite its harsh past, Dudley today has a good deal of charm and its people much warmth. This is also true of the towns that the Metropolitan Borough now embraces, such as Stourbridge, Halesowen and Brierley Hill, covering an area of about 38 square miles with a population around 300,000.

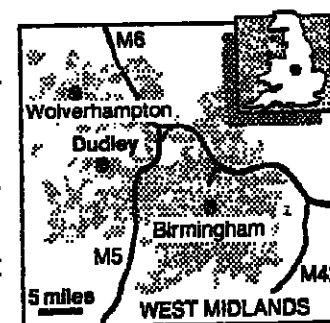
Historically, Dudley's industrial fortunes were founded on mineral resources. It had rich deposits of ironstone, limestone, coal and fireclay. They gave birth to iron-smelting and metal-working industries, notably chain-making, and the cottage industry of nail-making. In direct contrast, it is also the home of world-famous lead crystal manufacturers such as Royal Brierley, Stuart Crystal, Thomas Webb and Sons and Webb Corbett.

From metals to plastics

While considerable diversification has taken place since 1945, metal-based industries still play their part in Dudley's economy. There are more than 90 companies engaged in producing ferrous and non-ferrous metals, and over 200 involved in various sectors of metal goods manufacturing.

Engineering is also important, with firms supplying the automotive industry with components, accessories and other equipment.

Inevitably, Dudley's economic and productive base has extended over the years far beyond metals and engineering. It now includes textiles, plastics, chemicals, electronics and a



wide range of service industry equipment.

In the West Midlands' economic crash, the borough has been devastated by unemployment, which has varied in the space of the last six months from 18.8 per cent to 17.45 per cent, representing a total of 28,281. The workforce of 91,816 males and 56,371 females comprises 53 per cent skilled workers, 22 per cent semi and unskilled, 20 per cent professional and managerial, and 5 per cent others.

Jack Bruce-Gardyne, writing in *The Times* on Sept. 14, said: "The first priority now is what to do about the most embattled of unassisted areas, the West Midlands."

Dudley is well aware of that particular problem. Its unemployment rate compares with 14 per cent in Scotland, which is an assisted area, but neither Dudley nor the West Midlands are included in that privileged company.

This leaves Dudley at a positive disadvantage, with only one financial carrot to tempt prospective developers and investors — its Enterprise Zone, which has been slow to take off in its two years' existence. Even allowing for

DUDLEY FACTS

Population: 296,400 persons
unemployed: 49,256 (16.3 per cent) (July 1983)
: 35,865 males
: 13,391 females

Members of Parliament:
Dudley East, Dr John Gilbert (Lab)
Dudley West, John G. Blackburn (Cons)

that, Dudley was excluded in this year's inner city help and, together with Solihull, did not receive funds.

The Enterprise Zone cannot hope to compete with assisted area status and regional development grants. Dudley's Industrial Development Unit has had hundreds of enquiries from people contemplating setting up business.

But the crunch comes with financial assistance. Immediately it becomes apparent that the Enterprise Zone is the beginning and end of Dudley's financial inducements, an enquiry is often taken no further.

Keith Duesbury, Dudley's Industrial Information Officer, said that the appointment of John Butcher as Minister with special responsibilities for the region, the setting up of an innovation team at the Department of Industry regional office and additional funding under the Small Engineering Firms Investment Scheme must be a step forward.

As assisted area status seems unlikely, so Dudley is looking elsewhere for renewed prosperity. It is pressing for EEC funding, an extension of its parameter possibly making the borough eligible for aid.

In Government support, it did less well than others, which reflected low spending and high efficiency over a number of years. This year, it is receiving £107 per head of population in Block Grant, compared with an average for Metro districts of £182.

John Mulvihill, the council's chief executive, said: "It can be argued that Dudley is receiving less support for its services from national taxation through Government grants than it really deserves. The authority is working hard to ensure that the people of Dudley are treated more fairly."

Rolling out the bottles

The visitor, despite all this, will find it a cheerful town. Many of its public houses are a true reminder of more civilized days, and five independent small breweries still produce beers of character and distinction in the borough.

"Ma" Pardoe, Simpkins, Batham and Holden are names that have earned devout respect for the quality of their ales, just as houses like the Vine, Brierley Hill, popularly known as the Bull and Bladder, or Mrs Pardoe's Old Swan at Neitherton are places of enormous appeal.

There is the Glynne Arms, or "Crooked House", which leans at an alarming angle through mining subsidence (bottles roll uphill and customers stagger when sober), where Edward VIII when Prince of Wales enjoyed a pint as a contrast to perjury. It is pressing for EEC funding, an extension of its parameter possibly making the borough eligible for aid.

The Black Country shows its vigour

Dudley's Enterprise Zone (EZ) came into being in July 1981. For the next 10 years it will provide the premier industrial development opportunity for the area and, it is hoped, between 5,000 and 10,000 new jobs. The zone originally extended over 540 acres, and two months ago Lord Bellwin, Minister for Local Government, announced an extension of 105 acres covering the redundant Round Oak Steelworks site.

It is a site where industrial regeneration is seen to be happening with the extensive dismantling of obsolescent buildings, the massive movement of earthworks for land

ENTERPRISE ZONE

stabilization, road improvements and the new industrial estates, parts of which are operating with increasing success. The Round Oak closure, with the heavy loss of 1,300 jobs, was a profound shock to Dudley. The decision to incorporate the site and thus sweep away the legacy of the past was seen as an expression of faith in the ability of the people of the Black Country, the cradle of the first industrial revolution, to show once again the vigour and

enterprise needed to restore its industrial fortunes.

The EZ has not had an easy passage but has survived some well-aimed sniping to reach a point where it has created 450 jobs by the end of its second year.

Dudley's is the only EZ with all land within private ownership. This has put it into the sights of the Labour leaders of West Midlands County Council, who have been among its fiercest critics.

The general line of attack is that the spending of vast sums of taxpayer's money on giving firms a rates "holiday" offers no solutions to the real problems of

the region, which, it is said, is not a recessionary one but the decline of its traditional industry. It was said that the net increase of four jobs in the Dudley EZ in its first year had cost £909,000 in lost rates and had only attracted 26 firms employing 193 people.

But Roger Latham, economist and head of Dudley's Industrial Development Unit, says the signs of progress were good. Employment had held steady and the 400 plus jobs created after two years had been through firms expanding or by new companies setting up. Mucklow's Enterprise trading estate was more than 60 per

cent occupied and Glynweds, occupation of 90,000 sq ft at Peartree Lane was also encouraging.

Jack Edmonds, leader of the council, has admitted that the zone has "been extremely slow to fire up". If it had not been for the efforts of developers such as Mucklows and Glynweds, operations would have been at a standstill.

What is now seen as a crucial turning point came in April this year with the purchase of the Round Oak site by the galvanic Richardson twins from neighbouring Oldbury, men who are

Continued on Page 19

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The modern town that clings to its past

AMENITIES

Dudley has easy access to the M1, M5 and M6 motorways and its location at the heart of England provides fast and easy communications with the surrounding area and other commercial centres.

The council's Highways and Planning Committee is responsible for the maintenance of almost 500 miles of road on behalf of the West Midlands County Council and provides nearly 8,000 car spaces in 100 car parks.

The West Midlands region of the Confederation of British Industry recently urged that the long delayed "Black Country Route" linking the A4123 to the M6 at Bentley at a cost of £26m was a project which must be started as soon as possible to help industrial regeneration.

British Rail has stations at Cosely, Dudley Port, Stourbridge Junction, Lye, Cradley and Old Hill. Future upgrading of the Inter-City track between Wolverhampton, Birmingham and London, improvement of rolling stock and the opening of an Inter-City station at Oldbury about four miles away, should bring an increase in Black Country passengers and a substantial cut in journey time.

Dudley has a colourful and busy market six days a week. There are three pedestrianised shopping areas and all the major multiples are presented together with smaller "character" shops. Stourbridge and Helesowen are the two other principle shopping areas and, as in Dudley, investments by the public and private sector has resulted in new developments with an increasing variety of high quality shops and stores.

A wide range of housing

Dudley can offer a wide range of housing for sale or to rent, with styles ranging from the modern executive family house to the traditional country cottage. Housing developments include attractively landscaped modern family housing estates and charming older village communities situated in the borough or set in the surrounding countryside.

Schools are organized under the comprehensive system. More than 50,000 pupils are in full time education in primary and secondary schools and 35,000 people are involved in some form of further education. Almost 76 per cent of the council's net expenditure is



A family walk-about against animal silhouettes in Dudley zoo, which was opened in 1937 in the castle grounds



Visitor and friends in Saltwell's nature centre, part of Dudley's project for urban renaissance

operates in the Stourbridge area and there are plans to set up a tertiary college. There are a number of independent schools of repute within easy reach of Dudley and there are three colleges of education, a number of community colleges, evening institutes based in secondary schools, plus two polytechnics and two universities within 12 miles of the town.

To most people in the Midlands, Dudley is synonymous with its zoo which was opened in 1937 in the castle grounds. It used old limestone workings as open air pits for the animals and introduced sea lions into the castle moat. The council bought the zoo in 1980 and it is now run as a recreational and educational amenity for the benefit of residents and visitors.

Parks and open spaces abound in the borough and one of the most fascinating is the Wren's Nest National nature reserve. It is internationally known as a classic geological exposure of the Upper Silurian limestone. The limestone was excavated and burnt in kilns for building and agriculture from the early seventeenth century and from the eighteenth century as a flux in ironmaking. It also yielded well over 300 species of fossil fauna. Quarrymen found trilobites in such quantities that it became known as the "Dudley Locust" and subsequently appeared on the town's coat of arms.

Quarrying ended about 60 years ago and in 1956 the

borough and Nature Conservancy established the nature reserve now covering 74 acres. It is not only a geological feature but a monument to the Industrial Revolution. Some areas and huge caverns are unstable but there are geological trail guides to help visitors.

The Dudley Canal tunnel is an historic and unique feature of the British canal system. It was originally completed to connect the Birmingham canal to the Staffs and Worcester. Unlike other tunnels it was part

HOUSE PRICES
Average prices for property are £7,000 to £15,000 for a two/ three bedroom terrace; £12,500 to £27,000 for a three/four bedroom semi-detached; £23,000 to £40,000 for a three bedroom detached; £40,000 to £50,000 for a four bedroom luxury detached.

of the system built to move the limestone from the mines of Wren's Nest.

The tunnel fell into disuse when mining ceased but was reopened in 1973. The Dudley Canal Trust runs trips through the tunnel using the only electrically powered narrow boat in the country. Other canal features in the borough are the Delph locks at Brierley Hill known as the "Nine Locks" - although there are only eight because of rebuilding in the last century - which are impressive as they climb the hill.

At one end of the Dudley

Tunnel is one of Britain's most stimulating museums. On a 26-acre site next to the castle hill a complete village is being reconstructed with a careful selection of buildings and equipment capturing the special cultural character of the Black Country. Regular demonstrations of old crafts and skills are given. The village stands between the Dudley Canal and a canal arm to the 200-year old limekilns which still dominate the site. Two bridges connect the village to the mainland; the cast iron Broad Street bridge brought from Wolverhampton and an unusual lifting bridge from the Great Western Railway canal basin at Tipton.

All the buildings have been carefully dismantled and brought to the site for painstaking rebuilding. There is a house from Victorian times, with period furnishings and complete with brewhouse and chainstays in the back garden; a replica of a chemist shop and the 1837 "providence" Methodist church from Darby Hand.

The Bottle and Glass pub from Brierley Hill now serves visitors rather than the chainmakers, miners and glassworkers of earlier times. Broadfield House, a late Georgian mansion at Kingswinford was opened three years ago as a glass museum. It has brought together for the first time the Brierley Hill and Stourbridge glass collections. The district has been famous for glass making for nearly 400 years and is now the centre of Britain's fine crystal glass trade.

What will happen to the land?

ECOLOGY

The first local nature reserve to be declared in the county of the West Midlands was in the Blackbrook Valley, Netherton, as a contribution to the European campaign for urban renaissance. Dudley has the highest acreage at 1,428 of derelict land in the county and the valley renewal project is seen as being closely linked with the adjacent enterprise zone in the local authority's efforts to pursue a balanced approach on regeneration and enhancement of the urban environment.

Dudley has been designated as a derelict land clearance area and attracts a 100 per cent capital grant from the Government. The main participants in the project which got underway in 1980, with the nature reserve declaration in September 1981, are the council, the Nature Conservancy Council and Landscape Institute.

At the outset, various agencies were looking for a suitable area with environmental problems which would benefit from the use of the best techniques for reclamation, improvements and community involvement and in May 1981 came the formal launch of the project.

Mining rights

It was at that point that one of the most contentious matters, still very much alive today, began to emerge. Rumours began circulating which have since become fact, that Grace, Countess of Dudley proposed to exercise her mining rights and open cast for coal around Dudley's Clayfield area of the valley. Her application for planning consent is now before the Labour-controlled county council in the face of considerable local opposition. There is resentment that a family that prospered so mightily from coal in the last century is still apparently able to pursue a right of seignior in the late twentieth century.

Part of the Claypit was notified as a site of special



The Richardson twins Roy and Donald in the mould of the great Black Country entrepreneurs

scientific interest nearly 30 years ago. The large disused quarry shows a 100ft section of the middle coal measures from the base - resting on the Silurian - to above the thick coal. It is valuable for teaching geology and in addition the area is scenically impressive and biologically rich.

The major part of Saltwells Wood, the heart of the nature reserve, was planted in 1795. It is primarily an oak, birch, holly woodland with other species including lime, beech and poplar and some intrusion of sycamore. The stream valleys have a profusion of plant and insect life.

In the Claypit area young woodland and scrub have recolonized the old excavation. The area is rich in invertebrates and the pit attracts a wide range of birds, including the green woodpecker, which is rare in urban areas.

To the south and east the area was affected by small scale coal mining. However reclamation by oak, ash, hawthorn and sycamore has taken place with woodland flora developing, providing an interesting comparison with Saltwells Wood.

This year surveying and monitoring is being pursued as a matter of priority. But new guidelines adopted by the Department of the Environment on priorities for derelict land schemes place emphasis on joint public-private sector schemes making land available for industry or housing. With

public open space schemes being given a low priority, the project is continuing without the benefits of derelict land grants. Environmental conservation and improvement is concentrating even more on the involvement of people rather than the provision of financial resources to carry out works.

The project covers an area of 363 acres, and has set itself five main aims.

- to conserve and enhance the existing landscape and drainage of the valley;

- to minimize the impact of development, and redevelopment on the ecology of the valley by identifying and protecting areas of special natural importance and by taking ecological principles into account design and management in the valley as a whole;

- to ensure that management proposals for the valley are defined in the context of the design of landscape treatments;

- to encourage the use of the areas as an educational resource;

- to use the landscaping, survey and environmental monitoring work in the valley as a vehicle for increasing community involvement in decision making, self-help and long-term management.

Future aims include bringing into public ownership land that is privately owned but earmarked for public open space and to establish the appointment of wardens on a more permanent basis.



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Continued from Page 18

in the true mould of the great Black Country entrepreneurs of old. The twins were encouraged to invest in Dudley because of its adoption of void rating, i.e. no rates being charged on empty industrial property. It is still the only council in the West Midlands where this practice prevails.

Work has started on the preliminary stages of a £40m development programme by the

The Black Country

Richardsons, who have already sold off 12 acres of the Round Oak land for a new steel freight terminal which will create over 100 jobs by early next year.

Donald Richardson accepts that the industrial estate will never employ the thousands who worked at the old Round Oak plant when it was in full production. Nor does he see enterprise zones as the complete answer to recession, but regards them as offering a new opportunity for local companies which should be seized. His philosophy is: "There is no room these days for great acts of philanthropy. But by creating opportunities we can alleviate the job situation and we also prosper. We have a vested interest in the area's success."

Another venture by the council in association with LCP, a large estate developer, is also proving its worth. The enterprise workshops on the Pennant trading estate were designed specifically to cater for small businesses setting up for the first time. Two phases have been undertaken: the first have already been fully let. The Enterprise workshops provide two important benefits for tenants, a monthly licence giving greater flexibility than the traditional lease, and rental that includes local authority rates, water, rates, heating, insurance, security, service, maintenance and waste disposal service.

In another sector, the council

is involved with the town's chamber of commerce and local companies in the Dudley Business Advisory Service (DUBAS). The objectives are to create jobs and give help, advice and encouragement to small business setting up.

As well as concentrating on the area itself, the local authority is placing a great deal of emphasis on encouraging overseas investment and a campaign has been launched, directed primarily at North America. A well packaged video entitled "Newsmen Dudley", featuring companies such as Simon Engineering, LCP, and Herman Smith, and outlining details of land and premises available and the benefits of the area, has been sent to 40 enquirers.

A typical success story involves the company of Roof Units, which found itself in the designated EZ rather than having to move to it. It was formed 11 years ago and is currently marketing a wide range of ventilating equipment for the UK and overseas. Under its chairman Ray Ball, it has systematically reinvested money saved on rates and other benefits of the EZ. On a 2.5 acre site it has a new office block and three production bays totalling 40,000 sq ft. Work force and staff total 45. Anticipated turnover at the end of the current financial year is £3.5m. In three years the

company has tripled turnover, and profitability is running 30 per cent ahead of last year's level. It has a £300,000 export target to Europe, the Middle East and Australia. The programme involves expenditure of nearly £300,000 on future investments in buildings and new production facilities.

Dudley will have a new spur to endeavour as the result of last month's announcement that the Government had agreed in principle for yet another industrial estate in the Black Country.

It was thought that the 100-acre site, probably in the Wednesbury area about five miles from Dudley, could create up to 3,000 jobs under a £25m additional package of support for the West Midlands. The location of a site had been in the hands of the English Industrial Estates Corporation which has Government support. One prime site that was identifiable is the redundant Patent Shaft steelworks which closed in 1980 with the loss of 1,500 jobs. The Bilston steelworks site was thought to be less acceptable because of its division by a main railway line and a canal.

Mr Donald Richardson is happy with the Government's plan saying that the Black Country already had a strong selection of privately run estates. He said: "The public sector should watch what it is doing because it could inhibit private sector growth. If anything fresh investment should come from the institutions such as pension funds and insurance."

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